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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk September 30, 2012 NORTH & WEST KENT EDITION Issue no 523

Backlash at reform over planning law as councils voice fears

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

TOWN halls in Kent are refusing to back government proposals to relax planning application rules, amid fears the changes could have a devastating effect on the countryside.

A number of local authorities have declined to fully support the plans, with concerns that new rules would lead to rows between neighbours over home extensions.

One council has even suggested the Coalition policy goes against their localisation agenda, which is meant to put decision-making in the hands of district and borough councils.

The proposals would see homeowners and businesses able to build larger extensions on existing properties without need to seek permission from local authorities. Extensions of up to eight metres on detached homes and six metres for others would no longer require approval from planning officers, compared to the four-metre and three-metre rule which is currently in place.

The relaxation, if approved following a consultation period, would be in effect for three years in the hopes of giving the construction industry a much-needed boost and allow the economy to build itself out of recession.

Although restrictions will still apply in conservation areas, some local authorities remain unconvinced.

A Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council spokeswoman said: "The proposal to introduce a significant relaxation of controls for residential extensions raises concerns that development, which could seriously harm the adjoining residential properties, may be constructed without permission.

Continued on page 2

HOP FARM FESTIVAL ON BRINK OF EXTINCTION

FINANCES: Promoters slip into administration after poor ticket sales – **SEE INSIDE**

POLITICS

Giant-killer is Ukip candidate

THE man who toppled Tunbridge Wells council leader Bob Atwood at the local elections earlier this year has been unveiled as Ukip's secret weapon in its bid to win election as Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner. Piers Wauchope will run for the office in November. **PAGE 7**

BUSINESS

Firm hits back at BBC blast

A SECURITY company blasted by BBC consumer TV show Watchdog revealed this week it has sacked the salesman featured on the programme and vowed to re-build its reputation. The Maidstone-based firm was seen using a heavy-handed sales technique on OAP customers. **PAGE 2**

ART

£20m painting 'hidden Turner'

A BROMLEY art investor was celebrating this week after a painting he bought for just a few thousand pounds is now believed to be a lost work by the artist JMW Turner and has been valued by insurers for a cool £20million. He says he has not yet decided if he should sell the work. **PAGE 10**

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Kent Weekend

Do you want to marry this man?

Julian Clary is up for grabs SEE PAGE 47

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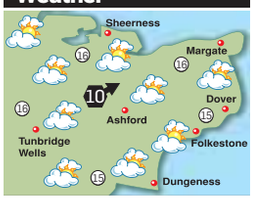

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TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	11.53	6.8	–	–
Margate	00.54	4.7	12.52	4.8
St Mary's	05.30	5.5	17.45	5.7

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 18C	Min 12C
Tuesday	Max 19C	Min 12C
Wednesday	Max 17C	Min 11C
Thursday	Max 17C	Min 10C
Friday	Max 15C	Min 10C
Saturday	Max 16C	Min 11C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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'It's a backward step in encouraging local decision-making'

Continued from front page

"With things as they are, local councils have the ability to make well informed and timely decisions to grant permission for such extensions if they are acceptable. If they are not acceptable, then it is right permission should be refused.

"Taking away this level of judgement seems a backward step in encouraging local decision-making."

The comments follow the London Borough of Richmond's decision to speak out about the proposals, insisting more needs to be done to protect residents from intruding extensions.

A number of other Kent councils, including Dover, Ashford and Medway, said it would need to have more details about the plans before it could comment fully, but said they would keep a "close eye" on developments to the proposals.

A Medway Council spokesman said: "We are awaiting the actual wording of what the Government is looking to introduce. Once we have that we will be in a better position to see what effect this might have in Medway and to decide if we wish to take any action like Richmond."

Other councils are confident the proposals will not have a major environmental issue as some restrictions will still apply, but are considering their options before backing the proposals.

A spokeswoman for Sevenoaks District Council said: "We will carefully examine the proposals to ensure they strike the right balance between avoiding unnecessary restrictions and not permitting development that would harm the environment of the district."

Environmental groups have welcomed the stance of councils, with senior planner at Protect Kent – the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) – Brian Lloyd, calling the proposals a "backward step".

He said: "We certainly welcome those councils standing up and making their voices heard.

"In the general countryside there are a lot of businesses and properties, and the new rules would allow small scale developments on existing properties which would have an indirect effect on things like traffic generation on rural roads."

Despite all the criticisms, the Government has hit back and planning minister Nick Boles insists the proposals will benefit people in more ways than one.

Mr Boles added: "The planning system needs to strike a balance between the rights of the homeowners and their neighbours.

"Our proposals will make it easier for thousands of hard-working families to undertake home improvements to cater for a growing family. It will also help generate new business for local construction companies and small traders."

BUSINESS

Salesman sacked after BBC reveal hard sell of family-run security firm

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

A SECURITY company named and shamed on national television for its poor service has this week defended its position.

Bosses at Landmark Home Security, based in Maidstone, were left red-faced after the company was featured on BBC1's Watchdog.

Secret cameras filmed aggressive and threatening sales techniques on potential elderly customers in a bid to get them to pay out thousands of pounds.

Landmark specialises in security systems for the home and promises 24-hour monitoring and property protection when a customer signs up.

But Watchdog slammed the company after its sales staff, particularly one named Joe, piled the pressure on their stooges.

Joe was seen forcefully questioning elderly actress Beryl as to why she would't buy the system and accused her of wasting his time.

He is then confronted by co-presenter Matt Allwright who accused him of "bullying".

The programme also questioned Landmark's free alarm system and how customers are told if they don't sign up immediately they will have to pay more than £2,000 extra.

Watchdog was concerned about the cost of the 15-year contracts for monitoring the system, which came out at nearly £7,000 even with the free alarm.

Landmark managing director Liam Walsh this week said they are a family-run business which employs 60 staff from the local area and that the Watchdog coverage was upsetting.

He added that the behaviour of salesman Joe was a one-off and that he has been sacked.

He said: "It's very easy to watch the programme and think all of the salesman are trained to put pressure on old people. But that is something we try to avoid.

"If I had known, or had any inkling he behaved in that way, he would not have been representing us. I would not want to run a business engaged in those kinds of tactics, especially when we live up the road."

Mr Walsh, 30, said the company had received no complaints in August and only two in September. He added that they work with charity Age Concern and Trading Standards to make sure they are dealing with customers correctly.

Mr Walsh said although they do offer other deals, a lot of people like to pay up front as it saves money in the long term and they know the system is paid for.

He said the way some of the scenes were edited were not reflective of conversations had between staff and customers and that the 15-year contract was an extreme example – they usually are around three to five years long.

He said: "I'm not trying to defend it. Because there was a lot on there that was not good.

"It's been incredibly upsetting; we worked very hard to build a business in the recession. We are in a sales business and we try to do it in the most ethical way possible."

On a statement on their website the company wrote: "Despite the programme being rightly critical of the salesman's performance it is worth highlighting that the programme did not dispute that our services and installation are of a high standard.

"For over three years we have installed over 1,000 security systems and have received high levels of customer satisfaction about our products and service."

Picture: BBC

CAUGHT OUT: Watchdog presenter Anne Robinson hosted the show highlighting the dubious sales techniques of Landmark Home Security

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EVENT

Pictures: DAVID STAUNTON-LAMBERT

ONE IN THE EYE: Coxheath Scouts (left) helped prepare the 1,200 custard pies for the world championships which was won by the Pie of the Tiger team

World record for celeb as custard pie throwing contest hits right spot

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

MAYHEM descended on a normally sleepy rural village last weekend as giant bananas, Elvis impersonators, and even a couple of famous faces, flocked to the World Custard Pie Throwing Championships.

Inspired by the slapstick fun of silent movie legend Charlie Chaplin, the event saw 16 teams of four donning fancy dress costumes and launching pies at each other in a bid to be crowned the throwing champions.

It took place at the Stile Bridge pub in Marden.

Among the competitors were Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps actor Will Mellor and comedian Rory McGrath who were filming for new Channel 5 show Will, and Rory Champions of the World.

Entrants Pie of the Tiger eventually took the crown, with Tutu Fruity From This Art of Mine coming second.

Also at the contest were the Guinness World Record officials as the showbiz stars tried to break the record for telling 20 jokes in a minute. Mellor managed to secure the record, but McGrath fell short.

The custard pie throwing event was created by former Maidstone mayor Mike FitzGerald in 1967, to raise funds for the village hall.

It soon got a worldwide following, with up to 90 teams taking part from as far afield as Japan and China before it was disbanded.

It was resurrected in 2007, when Mr FitzGerald became mayor once again, and it proved so popular it still continues.

Now, although a much smaller affair, the championships still attract national coverage and organiser Brian Mortimer, a local councillor, is hoping to build on the contest's success in years to come.

Cllr Mortimer said: "The day went very smoothly, we had spectators getting splattered, but they didn't mind and it was absolutely fantastic. Rory is such a character and all the women wanted to see Will."

Despite their name, the custard pies are made from flour and water, as custard "doesn't fly".

Coxheath Scouts got thoroughly covered as they prepared the 1,200 pies needed for the event, which used a massive 200 bags of flour weighing 3lb each.

Cllr Mortimer and Mr FitzGerald also tried to break the record for shaving cream pies thrown in a minute, but missed the target of 55 by four.

ACCIDENT

Highways Agency officer is killed on M25 as he helps at crash site

A MAJOR investigation is under way after a Highways Agency traffic officer was killed when he was hit by a car on the M25 on Tuesday.

John Walmsley (pictured) had been attending the scene of an earlier, minor, accident when the tragedy occurred.

The 59-year-old from Gravesend was struck by a Vauxhall Vectra travelling from Kent into Surrey. He was declared dead at the scene.

The incident happened near junction five at Chevening, near Sevenoaks.

His family issued a moving tribute on Thursday: "John Walmsley, our dad, was a great dad, grandad and most importantly great husband, who is irreplaceable.

"He had the affection and respect of just about everyone he come in contact with, due to his honesty and kindness with and to them. He will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. XX"

The incident caused huge hold-ups on motorway with a section fully closed to traffic for a short while, and also forced the temporary closure of the M26 as air ambulance teams touched down.

Police were first called to a minor collision at around 1.40pm on the clockwise carriageway of the motorway.

But as they attended the scene, the situation escalated into a major incident when the Highway Agency officer was struck.

A Highways Agency spokesman said: "We are liaising with relevant investigating authorities and as such it would not be appropriate to comment further."

The Vectra was carrying three occupants. Two people were taken to a local hospital; one with injuries believed to be serious and the other with minor injuries.

The incident happened on the M25 prior to where it joins the M26 on the clockwise carriageway.

The road was fully reopened by 10pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chart star skates in

N-DUBZ star Fazer will be visiting Dartford Skate Park next week as part of a campaign to enhance outdoor spaces.

The chart star secured a £100,000 prize fund for skate parks across the UK as part of the Transform Your Patch campaign. He will highlight the launch next Thursday.

The urban music star beat off challenges from other celebrities to secure the money for skate parks.

Car crash victim dies

A FAMILY is in mourning this week after a man in his 20s died last weekend from injuries he suffered in a car crash earlier this month.

Police say the man, who has not yet been named, died after his car was involved in a smash in Childsbridge Lane, Kemsing, on September 15.

PC Jamie Woodhams said: "The man who died was a passenger in a black Ariel Atom when it left the road and collided with a tree."

Pilot people smuggler

A BELGIAN pilot who attempted to smuggle a number of illegal immigrants into the county has been jailed for three years.

Jean Francois Hennaux admitted to helping several groups of migrants get into the UK by flying his light aircraft into Kent airfields.

He was caught after he landed unexpectedly at Headcorn aerodrome in June. Two Albanian adults and children disembarked and were prevented from leaving the site by staff who then called Kent Police. He was sentenced to three years by Maidstone Crown Court.

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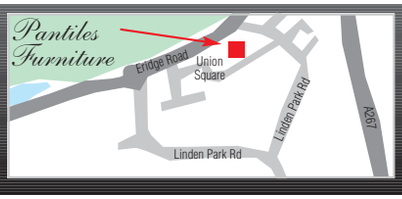

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VENUE FOR THE STARS: Some ot the world's top artists have graced the Hop Farm Festival stage including Prince (far left) and the legendary Bob Dylan

MUSIC

Sounds bad for Hop Farm Festival as organisers go into administration

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IN ITS short life, the Hop Farm Festival established itself as one of the big hitters on the crowded summer scene – but this week its very future hangs in the balance after its promoters prepared to call in the administrators.

It will come as a blow to the local economy – which it was claimed benefitted to the tune of millions of pounds by thousands descending on the area every year – and to music fans in the county who had grown accustomed to big names performing on their doorstep.

In recent years it has seen the likes of Prince, Morrissey, Lou Reed, The Eagles, Van Morrison and Bob Dylan perform, expanding the two-day event to three days in 2011.

The company behind it is Music Festivals plc. It is run by Vince Power, the man credited with turning around the fortunes of such giants as Glastonbury and Reading during the 1990s before making millions by selling his Mean Fiddler organisation. It suspended its shares last Friday as the scale of its financial woes became apparent.

After launching on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) last June, at a share price of 66.5p, it valued the company at £10 million. By the time of Friday's announcement, that price had plunged to 2.12p - making the company worth a little over £310,000.

And on Monday it confirmed it was set to appoint an administrator.

In a short statement, it said: "The company announced on August 2 that due to poor trading conditions it expected to generate a material loss for the year ending December 31, 2012, and it was seeking to raise additional working capital.

"The board has in recent weeks pursued a number of different funding proposals, but the company has not been able to procure the necessary funding it requires."

At the heart of its woes lies the Hop Farm Festival, staged in the grounds of the popular tourist attraction in Paddock Wood.

It achieved what few have; establishing itself as a niche event, delivering legendary names aimed at the discerning music fan with that all-important disposable income.

Earlier this summer Music Festivals plc confirmed a big hole blown in its finances by poor ticket sales for the Kent event.

It blamed increased competition from the Olympics, free festivals and the disappointing weather. It also saw a drop in profits at its Spanish event, Benacissim.

BRAINS: Vince Power

POWERED BY THE MUSIC

VINCE Power's reputation in the music industry is unlikely to be hit too hard by the troubles faced by the Hop Farm Festival.

During the 80s he built up his Mean Fiddler empire, starting from a small venue in Harlesden, London, and expanding to include key live venues such as The Forum in Camden and the nearby Jazz Cafe. In 2005, he sold the Mean Fiddler company for a staggering £38 million.

After taking a few years out, he returned with events in Spain and the Hop Farm event in 2008. He always spoke of the Hop Farm being a long-term commitment".

However, not all he touched turned to gold. In 2010, he lost nearly £8m when music promotions and pub business Vince Power Music Group crumpled.

By 2011 things seemed to be back on track; he launched the Feis Festival in London and the Hop Farm grabbed headlines. Buoyed by the positive PR, he floated Music Festivals on AIM. But earlier this summer it was reported he pumped £750,000 into the firm to keep it afloat.

He will almost inevitably return.

Experts in the music industry point towards a squeeze on big ticket spending and increased competition. Others said this year's line-up was lack-lustre at best, and disappointing at worse.

Whatever is at the root of the problem, it would appear the 2013 event hangs by a particularly thin thread.

A spokesman for the festival was keeping tight-lipped this week, but last month was unable to confirm if the 2013 event would go ahead, as we exclusively revealed.

It would appear the financial pressures were in part, at least, the reason two open-air shows at the Hop Farm featuring Leonard Cohen were dramatically pulled and moved into Wembley Arena earlier this month. The reasons were never fully explained, but it was stressed it was not due in any part on the Hop Farm's suitability.

For the Hop Farm itself, it is awaiting to hear about the outcome of the latest drama, but says it remains optimisitic the festival could return.

Miguel Fenton, head of communications at the venue, said it was not ruling out the event returning in 2013 for a sixth consecutive year.

He said: "We are aware of the situation, but at this stage, in terms of the 2013 event, we are still awaiting confirmation."

He confirmed the festival rents the venue each year and that it had no outstanding bills. It is not clear what its contractual commitments with the venue may be with regard any possible long-term deals.

Lounge on the Farm, the county's other highest profile festival, staged annually on the outskirts of Canterbury, were sympathetic to the Hop Farm's plight.

A spokesman said: "It is always sad to see a cultural offering go, regardless whether this is competition or not."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cops hit drug users

A CRACKDOWN on drug use rolled out across pubs and bars in West Malling last Friday night.

It formed part of an on-going push to target people who possess or use drugs within the area. Police sniffer dogs were used and three men were found in possesison of drugs. A 28 year-old from Maidstone was given a caution for possession of cocaine and two men, both from Snodland, aged 46 and 38, cautioned for possession of Class A and B drugs.

OAP demolishes flats

A 78-year-old resident got behind the wheel of a 45-tonne digger to bring down the first block of 16 flats to start the £34million regeneration of a housing estate in Tunbridge Wells.

More than 500 watched Jenny Bays start the ball rolling on the demolition process on the Sherwood estate.

She was one of the first to move into the flats in 1965 and was chosen in recognition of her community work.

Medal winner in visit

PARALYMPIAN star Claire Cashmore will be paying a special visit to a school in Tonbridge next week, fresh from bagging three medals at London 2012.

The swimmer came second in the 100m breast stroke and the 4x100m medley relay, and took bronze in the 4x100m freestyle. She will be visiting the Schools at Somerhill on Friday. Her sister is a science teacher at the site.

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POLICE

Ukip unveils 'giant-killer' candidate in its bid to land crime commissioner job

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE UK Independence Party has unveiled its candidate in the race to be the county's most powerful figure in the fight against crime.

Piers Wauchope made national headlines when he defeated Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Conservative leader Bob Atwood in the May local elections.

It proved to be one of Ukip's most memorable ballot box victories, toppling a popular local figure and leader of the traditionally true blue Tory stronghold.

Now Cllr Wauchope has been unveiled as the party's candidate for the November elections.

And the chances are he will know just how to appeal to uncertain Tory voters; just as he did when springing his surprise victory in the Rusthall ward.

For eight years he was a Conservative councillor in Camden, and stood in the 2005 General Election as a Tory for the Hampstead and Highgate seat. He narrowed the gap but still lost out to Labour's Glenda Jackson. He will now go head-to-head with the likes of Tory Craig Mackinlay and Labour's Harriet Yeo, in addition to independent candidates such as Ann Barnes.

POPULAR: Piers Wauchope toppled the Tunbridge Wells Tory leader

The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner replaces the Kent Police Authority – and oversees Kent Police, with the power to hire and fire the Chief Constable.

Cllr Wauchope, 55, who has worked as a criminal barrister for 27 years, said: "I have worked in fighting crime with police officers from over 12 different forces and am easily the best qualified of the candidates named so far.

"My policies are consistent with the common sense policies of Ukip and the people of Kent who have repeatedly said they want to see more police on the streets and tougher action to deal with anti social behaviour.

"My experience as a barrister has confirmed my beliefs that the police need to spend more time preventing and investigating real crimes and there needs to be an effective plan to stop reoffending among youths and young adults."

Kent MEP and Ukip leader Nigel Farage said Cllr Wauchope was "an excellent candidate and one who has my total support in his campaign". He pledged to take to the streets of the county in support of his candidate.

Ukip are being backed by many to spring a surprise in the elections.

While arguments over voting for a political candidate rage on, the smart money is on disillusioned Tory voters opting for the Euro-sceptic Ukip, with a view that it shares its traditional tough line on crime.

The victor, however, will be the one who manages to mobilise and motivate their vote. So far public awareness of the election has been extremely low and experts say they expect one of the lowest ever turnouts for a national poll.

The election is due to take place on November 15.

THE ROLE

What is the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)?
It replaces the existing Kent Police Authority which oversees the running of Kent Police, determining budgets and hiring the Chief Constable. It will be wound down in November and replaced with the elected position of a single Kent Police & Crime Commissioner, who will carry out a similar role, but be more accountable to the public.

Who gets to vote for the Kent PCC?
Everyone who is eligible to vote. Each county will go to the polls on November 15 to elect a figure.

Who are the candidates?
The main political parties are putting up candidates, in addition to a number of independents. These include: Craig Mackinlay (Con), Harriet Yeo (Lab), Piers Wauchope (Ukip), Steve Uncles (English Democrats) Ann Barnes (Ind), Dai Liyanage (Ind), Fergus Wilson (Ind) and Ken Little (Ind).

Why should I care?
Because whoever is elected will be one of the most powerful influences on how the police patrol our streets and fight crime in the county. Among the issues at the heart of the debate are whether the elected representative would look to privatise parts of the police force by hiring external organisations to take over certain roles and the issue of having a political figure in charge, as well as combating some of the most savage cuts to the force enforced by central Government cut-backs.

CAMPAIGN

'Ticking time bomb' sunken ship sparks debate at meeting on estuary airport plans

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

DANGER ZONE: The wreck of the American military ship the SS Richard Montgomery, laden with 1,400 tonnes of explosives, can be clearly seen jutting out off the estuary

THE perils of triggering an explosion capable of sending a tsunami along the Thames Estuary with the construction of a proposed multi-billion pound airport were discussed at a public meeting on Thursday night.

The audience met at the St George's Centre at Chatham Maritime to discuss the dangers posed by the wreck of American military ship the SS Richard Montgomery.

It lies off the coast of Sheppey, close to the Medway Approach Channel, where she sank in 1944.

Her masts can still be seen.

Almost 1,400 tonnes of explosive are still aboard the vessel, and experts insist the concept of an estuary airport can't even be considered until the explosives within the ship are made safe.

It is claimed if the boat was to explode, it would trigger a 4ft tidal wave and smash every window in nearby Sheerness

This week's meeting was held to explore the dangers the "ticking time bomb" poses to the area, and to discuss the future of the airport project.

Organiser of the event, Ken Rowles, who is making a film about the SS Montgomery for American television, said an estuary airport was out of the question.

Mr Rowles said: "I think it would be very irresponsible for any kind of plans for an airport in the estuary without doing something about the Montgomery.

"The main danger is anything coming off a plane or, as we've seen in New York, planes missing the runway and hitting the water."

He added that an airport in Kent would be good for business, but said there was "plenty of opportunity" with Manston and other regional airports.

The SS Richard Montgomery is clearly visible above the water line, and contains a number of cluster bombs amongst other munitions.

Documentary-maker Colin Harvey said: "If you look at any of the plans, whether it be the floating airport or any of the other ideas, the Montgomery will be in the way of runways, and that will be a huge concern for people in Sheppey and Southend."

The sunken vessel lies just 1.5 miles off Sheppey and five miles from the Essex town.

If a team was to work in trying to deactivate the explosives, it is believed a 30-mile exclusion zone would have to be applied to the area, and one wrong move could lead to huge levels of destruction.

Experts are angry nothing has been done about the ailing vessel, with increased worries about the stability of decks on the vessel which are holding up a large number of explosives.

Mr Harvey added: "Over the years it was considered the best thing to do, but the original experts who went before Parliament in the 1940s said leaving it along was not an option.

"The best plan is to remove it. Sure, it's pricey, but what's the price of life?"

Scientist and explosives expert Mike Barker, despite supporting the idea of an estuary airport, admitted building work could not be carried out until the explosives were cleared.

He said: "It's never been as dangerous as it is today. All of the scans provide no information on the condition of the munitions inside the wreck."

> **If you look at any of the plans the Montgomery will be in the way of runways, and that will be a concern**
> COLIN HARVEY, FILM-MAKER

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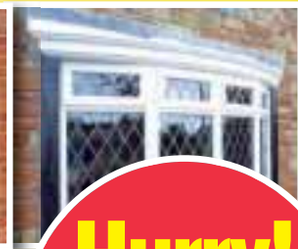

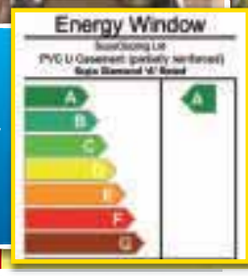

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ART

£3,700 painting bought in golf club is long-lost Turner valued at £20m

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

AN ART enthusiast has hit the jackpot after the painting he bought at an auction has been verified as a Turner original worth a massive £20 million.

Jonathan Weal, 54, from Bromley, bought the oil painting believed to show a coastal scene in Kent, at an auction at the Wealden Golf Club in 2004.

He paid £3,700 for the piece entitled Fishing Boats In A Stiff Breeze, which had a reserve of between just £700-£900.

Now, after years of painstaking research, the work has finally been verified as one of famous artist JMW Turner's (pictured) lost pieces, dating back to 1805 – the same year he painted his famous The Battle of Trafalgar.

Art insurers Hiscox are said to have valued the piece at £20 milllion.

Turner was renowned for his beautiful landscapes and Mr Weal believes his painting depicts a scene in Kent on the Goodwin Sands, off the coast between Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

He said: "The auction had 1,000 lots and between 200 and 300 of them were paintings.

"I saw it [the Turner picture] on the Saturday, researched it and bought it on the Sunday."

Since then he has spent 3,000 hours proving its authenticity, including using a handwriting expert to analyse the signature and getting seven professors to back up his claims.

He has also walked miles of the coast around Ramsgate in all weathers in a bid to find the exact location which inspired the painting.

Mr Weal said that the pivotal moment for him was when the handwriting was confirmed as Turner's leaving him "absolutely elated".

Mr Weal, who works at an art investment fund, has also discovered the work previously belonged to Turner's best friend, the Reverend Henry Scott Trimmer.

ORIGINAL: Turner's Fishing Boats In A Stiff Breeze is believed to depict a scene off the Kent coast

He said: "What's beautiful is it links Turner to the Kent coast, again."

The discovery comes as another three pieces inspired by views from Kent, but branded as fakes, are now thought to be genuine Turner creations.

The three oil paintings – The Beacon Light, Off Margate and Margate Jetty – were left to the National Museum Wales.

They will now go on display in Cardiff.

For Mr Weal the next stage is to see what people have to say about his painting and this week art specialists gathered at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in London for a conference on the rare piece.

At the moment he is not discussing whether he will sell the work.

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"There was nothing that could have been done better. The dealership was excellent."

"The sales person should be commended for his overall professionalism, politeness and the fact that he actually seemed to care on a personal level."

"It's a real pleasure dealing with any member or department at Haynes."

"My overall experience of buying from Haynes was excellent. My husband was also impressed and has already decided he will go to Haynes when he changes his car."

"I have been a regular customer at Haynes for over 40 years. I would not keep on returning if I was not completely satisfied with their professional approach."

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RELIGION

Archbishop successor to be unveiled 'in days' as speculation mounts

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

THE successor to Dr Rowan Williams as Archbishop of Canterbury is set to be announced this week, following a three-day meeting of senior church figures.

Dr Williams is stepping down from the post in December.

On Wednesday, a three-day meeting was convened of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) to discuss who will follow him as the Church of England's most senior figure.

Held at a secret location, a decision had to be reached by Friday.

The appointment must then be approved by both the Prime Minister David Cameron and the Queen.

Following changes to the process in 2007, Mr Cameron will commend the name preferred by the CNC to the Queen for approval, but a second choice will be available if there are a change of circumstances.

The Bishop of Durham, Justin Welby, has emerged as one of the favourites to get the post, although critics suggest the 56-year-old's lack of experience could work against him.

Other candidates include the Archbishop of York John Sentamu and the Bishop of London Richard Chartres.

The Church of England has called for prayer while the final decision and preparations are made for the incoming Archbishop.

The Reverend Arun Arora, a spokesman for the Church, said: "Just as we pray for those we love and those in need, so we also pray for those who shoulder responsibility that God will guide and support them."

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the leader of the Church of England and is seen as the head of the Anglican faith.

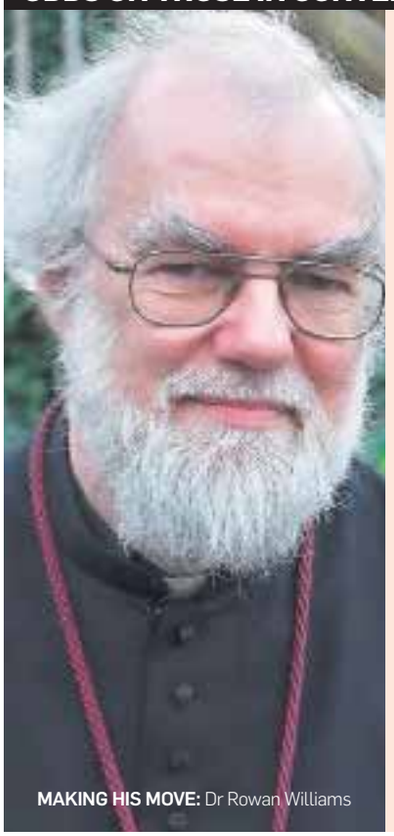
However, the church has remained divided over a number of issues during Dr William's tenure as Archbishop, including the ordination of women bishops and gay clergy.

The outgoing Archbishop admitted earlier this month he hadn't done enough so solve homosexuality divisions in the Anglican church.

After stepping down from the post, Dr Williams, 61, is set to become Master of Magdalene College at the University of Cambridge.

At the time of the announcement he said: "It has been an immense privilege to serve as Archbishop of Canterbury over the past decade, and moving on has not been an easy decision."

ODDS ON THOSE IN CONTENTION FOR LEADER'S ROLE



MAKING HIS MOVE: Dr Rowan Williams

EXPERTS have described the race to become the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury as too close to call.

However, the following are seen as the frontrunners:

2/1 Christopher Cocksworth: The 53-year-old became the Bishop of Coventry in 2008, and is the youngest diocesan bishop in the Church of England. The evangelical leader is one of the favourites for the post, but his youth could stand against him.

2/1 Justin Welby: The 56-year-old was ordained as the Bishop of Durham last year, and is seen as a candidate that could bring new ideas into the church. However, as a relatively young candidate, his inexperience may count against him.

9/4 Graham James: The 61-year-old Bishop of Norwich is a regular guest on BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day, and is the Church of England's lead spokesman on media issues. However, he rejects gay marriage.

4/1 John Sentamu: Seen as the most high-profile candidate of the lot, the 63-year-old has been Archbishop of York since 2005. Dr Sentamu would be the first black Archbishop of Canterbury, but some officials fear health concerns will get in his way.

6/1 Richard Chartres: The 65-year-old has been the Bishop of London since 1995 and has been a Privy Councillor for all but one of those years. He is keen on environmental issues, but could be a controversial choice as he disagrees with ordaining women.

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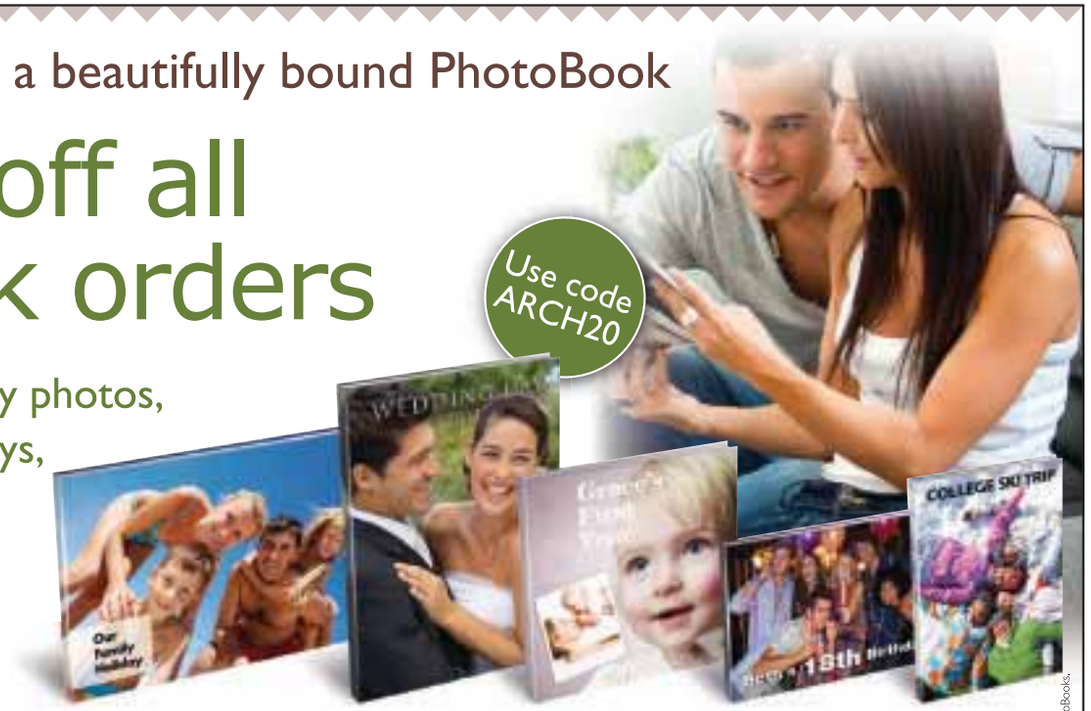

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"Excellent and the staff were friendly and polite."

"Excellent communication and very efficient."

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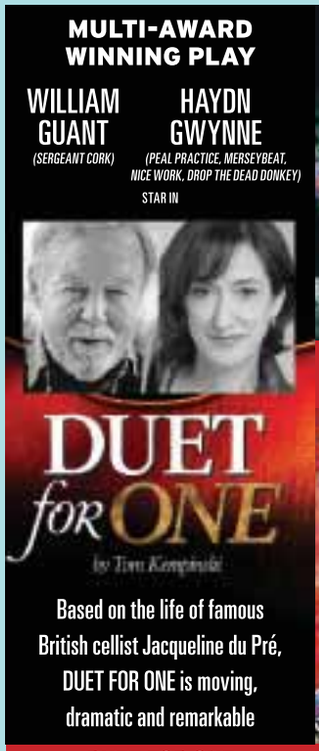

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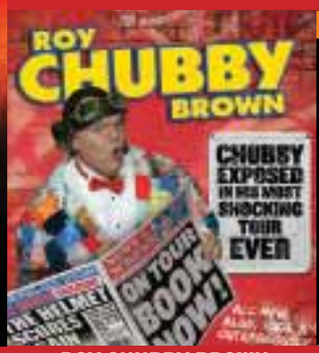
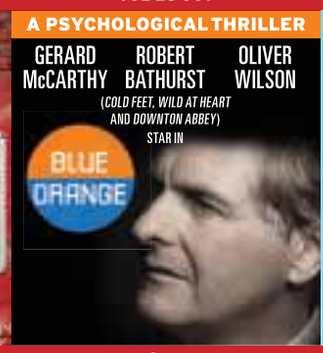
SPIRIT OF THE DANCE
THU 11 & FRI 12 OCT

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
TUE 23 OCT

COLIN FRY
WED 24 OCT



ROY CHUBBY BROWN
THU 25 OCT



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TUE 30 OCT - SAT 3 NOV

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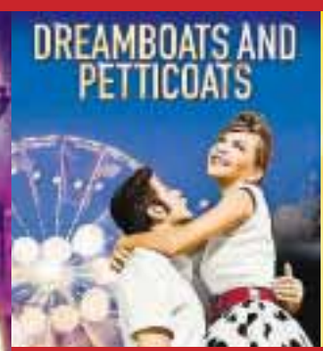
SUN 11 NOV

PETER PAN
FRI 30 NOV - SUN 6 JAN



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EDUCATION

As Wally celebrates 25th birthday, arts university remembers his creator

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

WHEN Martin Handford graduated from the Maidstone College of Art back in 1980, few would have tipped him to become the man behind a phenomenon which has enthralled children and adults alike for a generation.

But this year the famous Where's Wally? series celebrates its 25th anniversary, and Mr Handford has long since joined the alumni who passed through the halls of what is now the University of Creative Arts.

And university chiefs say they are delighted at how the Where's Wally? series has grown since it was first published on September 21, 1987, going on to sell more than 58 million copies in 38 countries around the globe.

UCA illustration course leader, Jane Cradock-Watson, said: "Where's Wally? has become a global phenomenon thanks to Martin's high quality illustrations and the ingenious visual challenge/puzzle that he brought to books for the first time.

"The illustrations and storylines actively encourage reader participation – making them quite addictive – but they also feature an improbable male main character which has encouraged young boys, in particular, to spend more time looking at books and to read.

"The highly visual premise, with less reliance on text, means the books translate well across language barriers and cultural differences and appeal to an international audience."

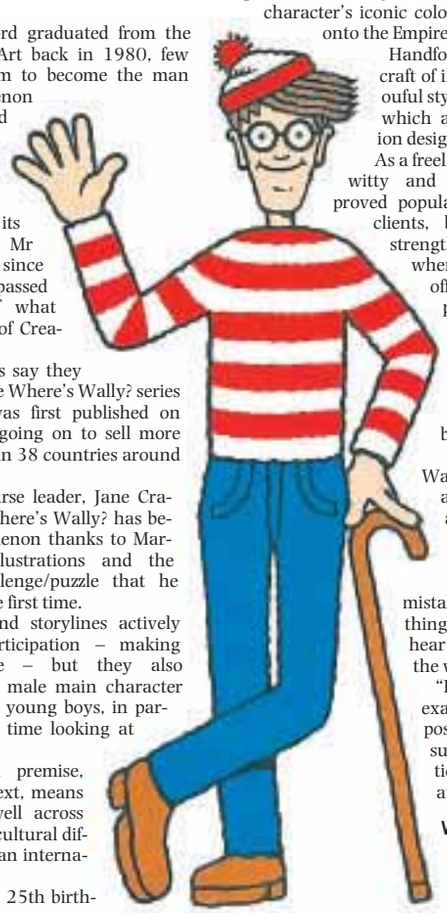
In honour of Wally's 25th birthday, the London Eye was lit in red and white stripes last Thursday, while in New York the character's iconic colours were projected onto the Empire State Building.

Handford developed his craft of illustration and colouful style at the art college which also spawned fashion designer Karen Millen.

As a freelance illustrator, his witty and engaging images proved popular with numerous clients, but his narrative strength came to the fore when Sebastian Walker offered him the opportunity to pour his imagination into a book which featured a character with a passion for stripes and bobble hats.

Mrs Cradock-Watson added: "They always say the years at art college are the most valuable as it's the time to experiment, make mistakes and try new things so it's great to hear Martin recognised the value of this.

"He is a very visible example of how it's possible to be very successful in illustration if you work hard at it."



WHERE'S WALLY? The popular stripey jumper wearing character is 25

REGENERATION

Sevenoaks gives nod to town centre site

AN ORGANISATION set up to inject more vibrancy into Sevenoaks is set to launch a new community website.

The Sevenoaks Town Partnershi has agreed a deal with VINE Digital to produce a one-stop shop site for the town, to launch in January.

CRIME

Curfew and tag for OAP benefit fraudster

A 69-year-old woman from East Malling has been tagged, given a night-time curfew and ordered to carry out a three-month community order after claiming more than £20,500 in housing and council tax benefit she was not entitled from Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

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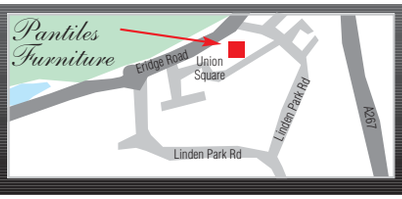

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COUNTRYSIDE

Heavy rain and flooding helps foreign invaders to take over

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SPREAD: Japanese knotweed has to be carefully disposed of

THE wet weather earlier this year has created an extra danger around Kent's river banks – a mass invasion of hogweed that can cause painful blistering if it touches the skin.

Kent County Council is concerned the plant is taking over some stretches of riverbank, and has launched a massive fight back.

Officials said bad weather can cause flooding which in turn increases the spread of seeds from plants such as giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam – spreading it further up banks and inland.

Heavy rain can also break up the leaves and stems of Japanese knotweed, potentially increasing the spread of new plants.

A County Hall spokesman said: "The rain also slows the rate of treatment too, as we can't chemically spray plants in bad weather, and that was an issue this summer."

Its Medway Valley Countryside Partnership is working to tackle the invaders which are destroying native plants.

Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed were introduced to ornamental gardens and estates in the early 19th century – and have been spreading ever since.

With its large flowerheads and wide leaves, giant hogweed lives up to its name and can reach heights of around 20ft. It may seem perfectly harmless, but it can badly burn and blister the skin if touched.

Japanese knotweed has a bamboo-like appearance with white flowers and shovel-shaped leaves. Astonishingly, it can grow up to 10cm a day and spread by just tiny parts of the plants being broken off and discarded. Therefore it is illegal to irresponsibly dispose of the plants without first seeking professional advice.

It is even illegal for landowners to ignore it. The plant causes erosion as it spreads across large areas, destroying other plants and habitats.

The MVCP's project to treat the problem now covers more than 150 miles of riverside and by liaising with dozens of landowners, around 20,000 giant hogweed plants and dozens of masses of Japanese knotweed are treated every year.

Viscount De L'Isle, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, owns Penshurst Place Estate, which is one of the sites where Japanese knotweed has been identified.

He said: "Everyone needs to be more aware of the invasive effect of these plants on the landscape and support organisations like Medway Valley Countryside Partnership in eliminating these extremely destructive species."

The Environment Agency has given additional funds to the MVCP to treat all the invasive plants on the Penshurst Place Estate and some other private gardens in the Penshurst area. This blanket approach on the eradication of Japanese knotweed will begin the reduction and eventual removal in this area.

KCC's head of countryside access Mike Overbeke said: "Many people will have seen these plants growing in Kent's countryside unaware of the problems they cause and the cost involved in tackling them.

"While they are ultimately the responsibility of landowners, we want to make sure all who enjoy exploring Kent's countryside stay alert to the risks too. It needs to be a collective effort to eradicate these species from our riverways."

FIRE

Chip pan warning after blaze

A CHIP pan fire in Tunbridge Wells has prompted fire chiefs to issue a warning to householders to take extra care.

Crews were called to Bracken Road on Saturday to find a pan ablaze. It is thought the resident accidentally turned the hob on when cleaning, which heated the oil. They put out an alert after returning home to find a fire taking hold. Crew manager, Richard Cobb, said: "Never leave a pan filled with cooking oil on the hob while not in use."

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Thursday, 4 October, 2 to 4pm
The River Centre, Medway Wharf Road,
Tonbridge, TN9 1RE

Monday, 8 October, 2 to 4pm
Hawkinge Community Centre,
Heron Forstal Avenue, Hawkinge, CT18 7BP

You can sign up to become a member and also take part in our public consultation, which runs until Monday, 22 October.

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HERITAGE

Punch and Judy shows thrive, despite seaside crowds' closed wallets

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

PUNCH and Judy shows are more popular than ever, according to puppeteers celebrating the 350th anniversary of the children's entertainment.

However, the traditional sound of "he's behind you" on Kent's beaches is becoming a distant memory as crowds refuse to pay up as the final curtain falls.

Broadstairs is the only seaside town in the county to host a summertime Punch and Judy show on its beach.

John Alexander, who performed Punch and Judy shows on the Thanet beach for 10 years before he retired, said the custom was dying on Britain's coastline and Broadstairs was showing others "that's the way you do it".

He said: "There are only four shows left on Britain's beaches, and it's a real credit to Broadstairs they are supporting it and will continue to have one.

"The public think the council should pay, and when you go out with a hat, people with £700 cameras round their neck say they have nothing on them."

STANDING ROOM ONLY: Puppeteer Miles Phillips refutes claims show is too violent

However, despite the reluctance from some to cough up a contribution after the performance, children and adults alike are still chuckling at performers across the country.

The traditional slapstick story surrounds the character of Punch looking after a baby for his wife Judy.

When Judy spots Punch hitting the child to stop it from crying, a fight between the pair takes place – leading to criticisms that the show promotes domestic violence to young children.

Punch and Judy puppeteers are still regularly hired to perform at fêtes and children's parties, seeing the traditional 18th century performance brought into the 21st century.

Terry Herbert from West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, has been performing since the age of 14 and said a bit of modernisation has kept the traditional entertainment alive today.

He said: "It's probably more popular than it has ever been because of the 350th anniversary.

"It's the oldest puppet show in the world and I think this year was one of the very best because of the Diamond Jubilee."

The show has come under criticism over the years, with some calling the show too violent for children and out-of-date.

But Faversham puppeteer Miles Phillips has spoken out to defend the nature of Punch and Judy shows.

Mr Phillips, who has been performing for 30 years, said: "You had one or two people having a go about it, but children see more violence on the 6 o'clock news than you do at a Punch and Judy show.

"It's certainly very popular, and the children love it.

"It's been here for 350 years and its going to be here for a good few years to come."

EVENT

Jekka McVicar lecture

ORGANIC gardening expert and author Jekka McVicar will be the star turn at Lullingstone Castle's annual guest lecture next month.

The author will be the first woman to deliver the lecture which prides itself on its World Garden, created by horticulturist Tom Hart Dyke. The event takes place on October 20. Tickets are £30.

SPORT

Striker's shot at glory

BROMLEY amateur footballer Dan Hunwick has been shortlisted in a nationwide competition to win a professional playing contract with a Football League club.

The forward, 26, will now take part in the first-round trials of Samsung's Win A Pro Contract that could see him sign up for either Swindon Town or Leyton Orient.

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News

COMPETITION

Win designer goodies at McArthurGlen Ashford

TO CELEBRATE Designer Outlet Fashion Month, McArthurGlen's Ashford Designer Outlet has teamed up with Archant KOS Media to offer one stylish couple a William Hunt suit worth £299, a Fiorelli handbag worth £195, and a £50 Marks and Spencer voucher.

For fashion lovers who can't resist the allure of designer labels, but equally want to stretch their shopping budget to the max, McArthurGlen's Designer Outlet Fashion Month is the diary date for them.

Celebrating the thrill of seeking out designer labels for less, September, 2012, sees the launch of the UK's first-ever Designer Outlet Fashion Month at McArthurGlen Ashford (www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com) as part of a nationwide campaign fronted by Laura Bailey, singer/songwriter Delilah, and fashion blogger Sandra from 5inchandup.

For more information about McArthurGlen's Designer Outlet Fashion Month, please www.mcarthurglen.com/dofm. Follow the conversation at #fashionfinds.

To be in with the chance of winning this fantastic prize, just answer the following question:

Who are the faces of McArthurGlen's Designer Outlet Fashion Month?

a) Laura Bailey, Emeli Sandé and Sandra from 5inchandup.
b) Laura Bailey, Delilah and Susie from Style Bubble.
c) Laura Bailey, Delilah and Sandra from 5inchandup.

To enter text KOS followed by MCARTHURGLEN and your answer then your first name, surname address and postcode to 80058, eg, KOS MCARTHURGLEN C JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate.

Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final. Usual terms and conditionsapply.

Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of October 9, 2012, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged. SMS services are provided by Velti DR Ltd, SE1 8ND, telephone 020 7633 5020.

Alternatively enter by post to McArthurGlen Fashion Month Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.

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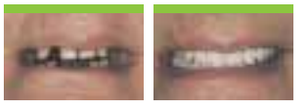

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EastKent College ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

INDUSTRY

Major brewers are left bitter as tax breaks aid rise of microbreweries

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

LARGE breweries could create more jobs if they received government tax breaks like their smaller competitors, according to the chief executive of Kent's biggest brewery.

Shepherd Neame boss Jonathan Neame believes the increasing numbers of microbreweries based in Kent is a sign of government help, while larger breweries face bigger Inland Revenue bills.

Microbreweries are benefiting from a progressive beer duty introduced by Gordon Brown in 2002, which offers a 50 per cent tax break to businesses manufacturing between 5,000 and 20,000 hectolitres per year.

More than 25 microbreweries now operate in the county, thanks to the growing popularity of locally brewed specialist ales.

However, despite welcoming the increase of breweries in Kent, Mr Neame said his business is not able to continue to expand because of the company's tax bill.

He said: "The only caveat we have is that the Government is trying to invest in small traders by giving them tax breaks. We also want investment and to create employment.

"Large breweries are paying twice as much tax as small breweries and what is happening is living proof of what can happen if the Government invests in a sector.

"It proves the point that if the Government invests in a trade as they have done for small breweries, you can get a huge explosion in investment and job creation in the trade.

"We want to invest in pubs, we would invest more in trading and we would create jobs which would benefit Kent."

Faversham brewer Shepherd Neame's tax bill has increased by 42 per cent in the last four years, and the company would like to benefit from the tax breaks microbreweries receive.

However, Mr Neame said it was an exciting time for the industry with a number of breweries setting up shop in the county and producing ale.

Ramsgate Brewery was formed 10 years ago, and is regularly approached by entrepreneurs who want to start microbreweries in Kent.

Director Lois Gadd believes there has been a shift towards local produce in the last couple of years, with microbreweries benefiting from this trend.

BOTTOMS UP: Sheps' Jonathan Neame says microbrewers benefit from Government tax breaks

She said: "The consumer wants to know things have been produced is a suitable way. That's not particular to breweries, but it has worked really well for us.

"We have a lot of people discovering real ale – there's a lot more women drinking ale, more young people – and there's a lot more real ale being produced, so I think it will remain a strong industry."

And this increase in popularity is seeing a surge in business, with Nelson Brewers in Chatham reporting a 25 per cent increase in turnover.

Owner Piers MacDonald said: "I think there is a good feeling of local produce because ale production and food is doing well. Competition can only be a good thing for our business, and we can only see the industry growing."

Last Saturday, Larkins brewery in Edenbridge won a coveted Camra (Campaign for Real Ale) award for the quality of its beer.

HEALTH

Find out about dyslexia

A FREE dyslexia awareness event takes place next month, with an educational charity urging parents and carers to attend.

Dyslexia Action is staging the event at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge on October 13, between 10am and 1pm.

It will provide parents with information about dyslexia and other literacy difficulties, advice on supporting children with dyslexia at home and an opportunity to discuss concerns and share advice with other parents.

POLICE

Crime panel vacancies

A PANEL to work alongside Kent's first Police and Crime Commissioner is on the hunt for two people to serve as co-opted independent members.

The Police and Crime Panel will scrutinise the work of the commissioner, who will be elected on November 15, replacing the existing Kent Police Authority.

It is now looking for two committed people who either live or work within Kent or Medway to serve. See www.kent.gov.uk for details.

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WAR

Family pay tribute to their 'guardian angel' soldier killed in action

SAD LOSS: Captain James Townley

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

TRIBUTES were paid this week to Captain James Townley, killed in action in Afghanistan just days before his 30th birthday and just two weeks after jetting into the war zone.

Born in Tunbridge Wells in 1982, he died at Camp Bastion in Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan, from wounds sustained at the forward operating base of Shawqat.

He was deployed to Afghanistan on September 5 with 4 Armoured Engineer Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment, and was based in the Nad Ali district of Helmand.

Capt Townley received a first-class degree in engineering and computer science from University College, Oxford, and worked as a tax associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers before attending the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst in January 2007.

He leaves behind his parents, Peter and Jacqui, his brother, Nick, and girlfriend, Helen.

Capt Townley's family said: "James was a wonderful, loving and caring son and brother. He was devoted to his girlfriend, Helen. He was our guardian angel and our hero. We were so proud of him. He touched every part of our lives and his loss has left a chasm we can never fill.

"James will never be forgotten and always in our hearts and thoughts."

His commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Chas Story, said: "James was an exceptional officer, a great character and unbelievably clever.

"The regiment is devastated that such a bright light has gone out – everyone knew him and it was impossible not to be drawn in by his passion and humour. He was on his third tour of Afghanistan and a volunteer for all three. He joined to be a soldier and he was determined to make the most of all the opportunities he could. The regiment will be a poorer place without him.

"In this painful time our thoughts remain with his family, his girlfriend Helen and all his friends. He was an outstanding individual and he has made a massive difference to all those he encountered. He will never be forgotten."

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said: "I was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Captain Townley. I understand he was an immensely talented and intelligent officer with a flourishing military career who was dedicated to supporting those around him. My thoughts are with his family at this difficult time."

He was on his third tour of Afghanistan.

COUNCIL

Businessman gets nod for town council

SEVENOAKS Town Council have co-opted businessman Nicholas Busvine OBE after a vacancy was created following a resignation earlier this year.

There were no calls for an election, allowing council members to select a suitable candidate. Three names were put forward and Mr Busvine selected this week. He has experience in public service, economics and business consultancy.

CHARITY

Rotary raises cash for county's charities

A CHARITY concert held by Maidstone Riverside Rotary Club has raised £8,000 for Kent Air Ambulance and The Heart of Kent Hospice.

In May, the club organised a charity concert featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir at All Saints Church.

Maidstone Riverside has raised a grand total of more than £300,000 for local charities since it was founded in 1991.

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LEISURE

Brewery buys historic hotel popular with Queen Victoria

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AN 18th century hotel in Tunbridge Wells – famed as a popular retreat of Queen Victoria – has changed hands in a move thought to run to seven figures.

The Royal Wells Hotel on Mount Ephraim – along with its pub, the Beau Nash Tavern – have both been sold to Faversham brewery Shepherd Neame for an undisclosed sum.

The hotel, which dates from the 18th century, has 23-bedrooms and trades on its Victorian elegance.

Queen Victoria made frequent visits to the hotel in the early part of the 19th century, and later granted the use of her coat of arms, which remains displayed at the top of building.

The hotel also has its own pub, the Beau Nash Tavern. Both were included in the sale.

Nigel Bunting, Shepherd Neame retail director said: "We are delighted to have acquired the popular Royal Wells Hotel, a building of great character and a fascinating history.

"We have a successful track record of developing premium hotels and the Royal Wells makes a fine addition to our estate."

SOLD: Shepherd Neame brewery now owns The Royal Wells Hotel

FITNESS

Healthy way to spend a few hours at library

LARKFIELD Library is throwing open its doors to stage a special Health and Wellbeing Day next weekend.

Organised by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, in association with Kent County Council, the free event provides health advice for the whole family from mental well-being to stopping smoking. It runs from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, October 6.

EVENTS

Why not explore your hidden artistic talent?

FAMILIES are being encouraged to let their artistic talents flow at an event at the Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery next weekend.

The museum is holding a family fun day on Saturday, October 6, from 11am to 4pm, as part of the Big Draw initiative, designed to encourage everyone to draw - including those who thought they were unable to. A number of artists will also attend to give advice.

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HISTORY

45p murder that made teenager youngest to die by hangman's noose

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

ALMOST 200 years ago, thousands of people flocked to Maidstone Prison eager to witness the hanging of a 14-year-old for a vicious, calculated murder.

It was a gruesome case that had gripped the county and was to go down in history as the gaol's youngest ever execution.

Five months earlier, the murderer, John Amy Bird Bell, had violently slit the throat of another young boy during a robbery, dumping his lifeless body in a ditch.

The victim, 13-year-old Richard Taylor, was on his way from Rochester to Aylesford to pick up his disabled father's Parish Relief Grant of nine shillings – 45p in today's money.

Richard arrived in Aylesford and put the money safely into a bag, which he would carry in the palm of his hand inside a mitten.

But when Richard failed to return home that afternoon his father became concerned and alerted the police.

John Bell and his 10-year-old brother James had been seen talking with Richard and were interviewed by the parish constable, but it was not taken further.

After several weeks of desperate searching, there was still no sign of the boy until May, when a man named Izzard was walking in woodland two miles from Rochester.

Izzard had looked down into a ditch on the side of the path when he made the grisly discovery of Richard's decomposed body, tellingly with the mitten cut from his left hand.

His throat had been slit open.

The Bell brothers were interrogated again and James finally admitted his brother had cut Richard's throat with a knife and stolen his cash.

John Bell then confessed to the crime, adding that he had put the knife in the dead boy's jacket pocket – which had since been buried.

Shockingly, the murderer said he and his brother had been planning the crime and had chosen Richard as their unsuspecting target.

Picture: PARRETT & NEVES LTD 1973

MURDERER: John Amy Bird Bell was just 14

Recalling the events of that fateful day, John Bell said he met Richard on his way home, and had started a conversation with him.

He then lured him into the wood, walking until he claimed he was lost. Richard sat down and began to cry, saying he didn't know the way out either, at which point Bell suddenly pounced and stabbed him in the throat.

Bell sickeningly revealed Richard had begged for mercy and offered him the money.

The parish constable got permission for the grave to be opened and, when the coffin lid was removed, ordered John to climb into the grave and retrieve the knife from the coat worn by the decaying corpse.

On the day of the execution, John Bell's last words were: "Lord, have mercy upon us. All the people before me, take warning by me. Lord have mercy upon my poor soul."

As a further punishment, his body was given to the surgeons of Rochester for dissection.

GRUESOME SPECTACLE WAS A WARNING TO OTHERS

MAIDSTONE Prison saw 58 executions take place – with some 28 hanged in public outside the main gate to act as a warning to all and a gruesome spectacle.

While John Bell was the youngest to be killed, aged 14, some 24 people under the age of 25 found themselves in the noose.

Of the 58 sentenced to death, almost all were for murder. But two men were killed for rape, two for arson, one for sodomy and one for highway robbery. It was only after 1836 that executions were exclusively for those who had committed murder.

The prison become the main place of execution in Kent from 1831. Previous to that, most executions were carried out at nearby Penenden Heath. The gallows were erected at a crossroads and were used up until 1830, the final execution on Christmas Eve when three men were hung for arson.

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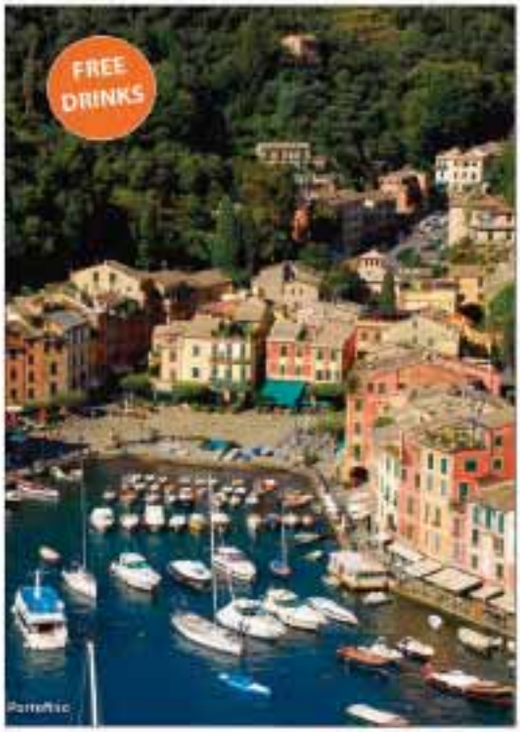

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Christmas package includes: 3 or 4 nights en-suite room • Afternoon tea on arrival • Welcome drink • Christmas Eve Mulled Wine & Mince Pie • 3 or 4 breakfasts & dinners • Christmas day lunch • Boxing Day Gala night • Note: dinner on Christmas Day will be a light buffet supper

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Date	Location	Nights	Price pp	Quote
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20 Dec	Honiley Court, Warwickshire	4	£299	XH12-4
20 Dec	Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	3	£249	BT12-3
20 Dec	Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire	4	£339	BT12-4
20 Dec	Mollington Banastre, Chester	3	£249	BM12-3
20 Dec	Mollington Banastre, Chester	4	£339	BM12-4
20 Dec	Redwood, Bristol	3	£249	BR12-3
20 Dec	Redwood, Bristol	4	£339	BR12-4
30 Dec	Honiley Court, Warwickshire	2	£189	NH12
30 Dec	Redwood, Bristol	2	£189	NR12

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For over 40s only

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Hayling Island

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Quote XM11-KOS

23 November, 2012

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INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar 6pm to 11pm every evening - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full Entertainment programme featuring Jeff Hooper's Big Band
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Carry on New Year 99p Bar Parties at Bosworth Hall Hotel

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Quote BH1-KOS

4, 11, 18, 25 Jan & 8 Feb, 2013

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INCLUDED:

- 99p drinks from 6pm to 11 pm nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers
- 2 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en-suite hotel room
- 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners
- Entertainment

Swinging Sixties 99p Bar Seaside Party

For over 40s only

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

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Quote PR3-KOS

8 March, 2013

Were taking trip down memory lane – for over 40s only - at Pontin's Pakefield. Enjoy a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including a 60s tribute act and a host of nostalgic fun from quizzes to films. The GN team will be on hand to ensure everyone has a good time with entertainment by Pontin's famous Bluecoats. Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. There's a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 8pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment & activities programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

KENT **REMEMBERED**

CONTEMPLATION: The author Charles Dickens in his much-loved Gad's Hill study in Rochester

Changing city inspired Dickens to new heights

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AUTHOR Charles Dickens is widely regarded as one of the sharpest observers of life to ever put pen to paper.

His much-loved Rochester and the 19th century north Kent countryside with its marshes and remote churches are as much a part of his books as any of the memorable characters which come alive in the pages of classics such as Great Expectations.

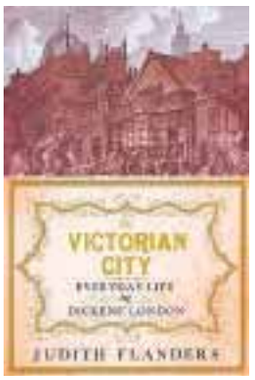
In a new work best-selling author Judith Flanders has put together what one critic called "an intoxicating blend of London, life and literature" to examine the influence of the capital city on an outstanding Kent literary figure.

The Victorian City, Everyday Life in Dickens' London is the title of the work which has been published by Atlantic Books – but as with any account of the great writer's life – the county he spent so much of his life looms large.

The 19th century was a time of transformation in Britain and while in the countryside it might appear little was changing, larger towns were seeing the results of the industrial revolution

But nowhere was this more apparent than on the streets of the capital of the British Empire.

In only a few decades, London grew from a Regency town to the biggest city the world had ever seen, with more than 6.5 million people and railways, street-lighting and new buildings at every turn.



AUTHOR: Judith Flanders' book

The book explores London's outdoors in a portrait of everyday life on the streets.

From the moment Dickens arrived in the city in 1822, from his earlier home in Chatham, he obsessively walked its streets, recording the everyday struggle for survival which was the state of many of its inhabitants, the unusual sights he encountered, as well as the cruelties which marred so many lives.

Flanders leads her readers through the markets, transport systems, sewers, rivers, slums, cemeteries, gin palaces, chophouses and entertainment of Dickens' London, to reveal the Victorian capital in all its variety, vibrancy, and squalor.

From the colourful cries of street-sellers to the uncomfortable reality of travel by omnibus, via the many uses for the body parts of dead horses or the unimaginably gruelling working days of hawker children, the book casts light on the darkest parts of the day and age – as well as its splendours.

Key moments in time are revisited, including the funeral of the Duke of Wellington which took place in 1852, following the victor of Waterloo's death at Walmer Castle, where he lived quietly in his later years.

Long forgotten rivers are also a feature of the book.

Pubs and inns were also a staple of the leisure lives of the Victorian population, with many sited along the River Thames.

Several popular haunts were along the waterfront at Gravesend, and the book tells how steamers left London Bridge and moored up at the town.

It also has an account of a trip to Sheerness, undertaken in the late 1860s by a journalist named James Richie on board the vessel Princess Alice.

"They left London Bridge at 10.30 and as they went downriver everyone had 'a good dinner on board' supplemented by tea and shrimps later," writes Flanders.

"Richie (who had a temperance streak) disapproved of the 'unnecessary demand for beer' and judged that 'smoking may be carried to excess'."

The excursion gave the opportunity for "700 or 800" to spend 90 minutes in Sheerness before a return to London with music and dancing.

The book also records as a footnote than on a similar trip the Princess Alice foundered and sank, killing 650 people and injuring 200.

OPINION

Optimistic over care challenges

Cllr Graham Gibbens, Kent County Council's cabinet member for adult social care, on the £18 million cuts facing his department

THERE is no doubt taking £18million from the adult social care budget is a big challenge.

While the savings planned at Kent County Council are both serious and significant, they are part of a change that makes me genuinely optimistic for the future of care in Kent.

We know demand for adult social care is increasing quickly, particularly when it comes to dementia.

Expectations are also rising and there is no quick fix.

We can respond, however, with a creative and innovative approach. This gives us a chance to design a system that meets a wide range of needs and is both effective and sustainable, while costing less.

We are in no way blasé about what needs to be done.

The truth is that without significant, wholesale change, KCC's responsibility for older people will effectively take over most of the council's budget in years to come. At the same time, we face the reality of having less money for this care and support. Taking a bit from here and a bit from there will not be enough – so bold thinking is required.

We've looked to those who use adult social care and their carers to understand better what changes they want. We've listened and shared ideas with the voluntary and community sector, with private care providers and with our health partners, and many others.

The conclusion is that we need to give priority to greater integration of health and social care services, and to preventative services.

We also need to keep investing in enablement – the intensive social care that helps people regain lost independence.

Finally, it is crucial to protect those services that exist so that people have support for living at home and as part of their community.

To make these things happen, I believe it is vital we play to the strengths of all those carers, NHS teams, voluntary groups and businesses that are involved in adult social care.

Most of our money is spent through domiciliary care and residential care organisations that are trusted to provide services on our behalf. However, we haven't often given them the opportunity to direct and advise us about working together more effectively.

Where a domiciliary carer can see that an older person might become less dependent, we should be able to let them be part of the decision-making process, as they are on the ground. This could save money in the long term, while encouraging independence in more situations.

Similarly, if someone enters the social care system, they should not automatically stay in the system for the rest of their lives. Instead, there should be the support they need to regain their independence.

This kind of change means changing the way we work, bringing savings and benefits

This kind of change means changing the way we work, bringing savings and benefits through less waiting time and fewer visits. Importantly, it could also help slow the growth of costly home care packages, which happen as people become more dependent.

We also need to help people to stay out of the system – not so that we stop offering support, but so we are really in the business of helping people live independently by tackling issues early, focusing on prevention to keep people from being sucked into dependence.

No-one at KCC underestimates the scale of what we are doing – it has taken time to look critically at our system and see how best to change it.

I do believe, however, we are creating something better.

KOS COMMENT

DNA debate: Why we need to be engaged

THE debate over the use of DNA is not one which is likely to fade fast – especially after an expert this week called for all newborn babies to be swabbed in order to provide a comprehensive database to use in the fight against crime.

Many will say it makes perfect sense. After all, if you've done nothing wrong, just what have you to be afraid of the authorities have your unique biological code on file? But there will be an equal number who see it as a potential threat to our personal liberties.

But the debate is one we must all face – and will no doubt again as scientific advances make it even easier to identify criminals by the clues they leave behind. We should all give it consideration.

Thanks for the music

FEW would have expected the county's biggest music festival to be the latest victim of the economy, but it would seem the Hop Farm Festival is teetering on the brink.

It's loss will be mourned – it put Kent on the music map and when it got it right, hit the high notes.

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Fisherman's shed at Dungeness by Ivor Dennis

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Lorry levy cash a pipe dream

I THINK some Kent County Council councillors have shown a political naivety if they ever thought they would see any of the revenue collected from a foreign lorry tax.

All they have achieved is putting prices up for us (as any increased costs will be passed to the end consumer), plus another level of bureaucracy.

As trucks pass from Kent into Essex, Surrey etc, will those councils not also want a slice of the generated revenue?

Who will decide this?

With an estimated start-up revenue of £23 million, in the real world how much of this money will actually go to road maintenance?

Some might dribble down for trendy 'halo' traffic schemes, but this is not much help to the majority of motorists as we crash from pothole to pothole.

All that has been achieved is to create a new revenue stream for the Treasury.

Cllr Brian Sweetland may complain about the mess left behind by truck drivers (not always unfounded) and parking of trucks in unsuitable places, but do the foreign drivers always have a choice?

Various governments have laid down stringent driving regulations, but have not supplied the parking and the facilities to meet the legislation.

With a policy of closing public toilets, it is bad enough trying to find one that is open (yes, I might want to go at night) and how many have parking spaces for a 40-tonne lorry Cllr Sweetland?

Terry Hudson, Swalecliffe

Tax all visitors to our country

A TAX on foreign lorries when entering Britain is about time, but this does not help Kent taxpayers – most lorries use Dover port or are stacked on the M20.

How about employing more staff or specialist equipment at the port with this 'new' money?

Also, the Government should charge all visitors a visa fee to enter the UK – say a £10 or £20. This would have the effect of allowing British passport holders to go through UK lanes while non-UK passport holders would have to pay the fee via other lanes without any perceived discrimination, exactly as the USA and other countries do.

The fee would allow new staff to be employed at airports to check all visitors to the UK including students, business personal, etc, have a valid insurance cover or a bond from their host families while visiting if they need NHS treatment that is not free to them.

If they do not have a bond or insurance visitors get a leaflet (in English) to advise them of our rules on NHS treatment.

Of course, all NHS trusts, doctors' surgeries, etc, must enforce this new rule even if they have to pay a person to police it. It is cheaper than the system installed now that is totally inept and is picked up by you and me.

Ken Little, Stanfield

Badger cull is just madness

TIME is fast running out for badgers in Kent.

I am dismayed to see the Tory-led Government is ploughing ahead with plans to begin a cull by issuing licences to shoot badgers.

Cattle TB (tuberculosis) is a blight on livestock and farmers that must be tackled, but this is a plan which will not work.

An iconic British animal will be slaughtered for no good purpose.

A 10-year scientific study on TB and badgers concluded a cull "would not only fail to achieve a beneficial effect, but would entail a substantial risk of increasing the incidence of cattle TB and spreading the disease". In short, it could make things worse

It was for that reason Labour ruled out a cull when in office.

A cull didn't make sense then and it doesn't make sense now. The Government should abandon this barmy idea and concentrate efforts on a comprehensive vaccination plan.

Peter Skinner, MEP for the South East

Plan early and rest a bit easier

RE: LAST week's KoS comment on 'Worrying cost of the final farewell'.

I read this comment with some interest as I work within the funeral profession. It is, as you suggest, becoming more expensive to say a fond farewell when a loved one dies.

Indeed, taxes and death are two certainties of this life.

Many people today chose to plan and pre-pay for their funeral, the cost can be met by a one-off payment or by paying in instalments (which can be useful for those on limited incomes).

Funeral planning is nothing new; remember Tutankhamun – as soon as he was born courtiers planned for his death.

A funeral pre-payment plan is a secure way of paying for your funeral in advance.

If this option is not one that would wish to be taken advantage of then at the time of death a simple funeral can be obtained from your chosen funeral director. All members of the funeral profession trade associations, NAFD and SAIF, are required to provide a simple service for those that wish for it or, if costs should be an issue.

I also think it worth pointing out the cost of a funeral is made up of many different components: cremation/burial fees, possible doctors fees' (for cremation), possibly a minister or celebrant, as well as funeral director's fees for his services.

Help with funeral costs can be obtained by application to the Department of Work and Pensions if one is in receipt of certain benefits.

What I think needs to borne in mind is that the public have a choice as with everything in life, there is also multiple choice over what sort of funeral one has upon death and those choices equal costs.

Janice Kirby MBIFD, MICF, regional development manager for funeral planning services

Video to keep the spirit alive

IN THE wake of the Paralympics, I urged your readers not to forget about the many challenges facing people with disabilities in their daily lives.

They confront their own personal hurdles each and every day, and their quiet heroics in overcoming adversity get scant recognition.

I work for Vitalise, a charity that provides desperately-needed respite breaks for people with disabilities and those who care for them.

I'd like to invite your readers to view our video and help us keep the Paralympic flame burning a little longer in our hearts. You can view the video on our website www.vitalise.org.uk.

Colin Brook, Vitalise

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This is Folkestone... but not as we know it

By Nick Ames
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THE VISION: Peter Bettley, of Folkestone Harbour Company, pictured, says any regeneration work has to be right. Architect's designs show, clockwise from top left, public space for recreation and leisure, beach homes and a bustling shopping area

THE multi-million-pound regeneration of Folkestone harbour will be unlike any other such project undertaken in the UK, those behind the scheme are promising.

An outline planning application has been submitted to Shepway District Council for the development of the seafront. A decision is due in the spring.

It is not a detailed planning application but provides for the building of up to 1,000 houses – including some on the beach itself – together with public spaces, shops and recreational facilities. If planning permission is granted, it is envisaged development would start in the area by the Leas Lift, moving north-east along the seafront to the harbour.

No costings have been finalised, but it is expected to be in the hundreds of millions – with the cash being made available by a foundation established by philanthropist Roger de Haan, who has already ploughed £50 million into the arts-led regeneration of The Old High Street and Tontine Street areas.

Folkestone Harbour Company spokesman Peter Bettley said: "People sometimes think that because this project has been going on a long time anything is better than nothing.

"But that is not Roger's view. We are seeing a growing investment in Folkestone's future, with businesses and people relocating here, and that is partially due to the legacy of buildings left from the Victorian and Edwardian eras. So that shows looking long-term is the correct way forward.

"We want to ensure the plans put in place will ensure a sustainable future for the harbour area.

"It is also our intention to create something unlike anything seen before – with an overall cohesion but individual buildings with their own distinct architecture and features."

The application under consideration by councillors reflects the culmination of some three years' work by leading architect practice Terry Farrell and Partners, together with a team representing the landowner, Folkestone Harbour Company, and experts in a variety of specialist disciplines.

This has included two full rounds of public consultation in spring 2010 and autumn 2011 on a range of ideas and proposals, and the results have been fed back into the planning process.

Further consultation on the submitted proposals will now be led by Shepway District Council as part of its determination of the application.

The backers say they have not modelled their ideas on any existing town or city – "not Brighton, not Amsterdam" – as they want it to be unique.

The proposals include critical factors such as environmental considerations, improvements to transport in the harbour and seafront area and acknowledging the heritage of the site. It also sets out clear ambitions for the project over the next 10 to 15 years, with the exact timetable subject to prevailing economic circumstances.

The backers say "great care" has been taken to present plans that are viable and can be delivered in a way that is "sympathetic to Folkestone's existing built environment".

The plan is designed to enable development of the site in phases, thereby helping to manage financial exposure for potential developers.

Each of these phases will see the preparation of an individual planning application, where design of buildings will be shown in detail. The outline application establishes the overall design for the site, including the layout and extent of streets along which the development will take place, other public squares and spaces and landscaping.

The plan has provision for water-based activities, while the street scene and public spaces will incorporate restaurants, small-scale retail spaces and heritage use as well as housing.

A statement by the backers reads: "The area represents a unique opportunity to design a cohesive townscape next to the sea that blends well with its natural environment and existing heritage, but that also provides well-designed and sustainable amenities for the people who live in Folkestone and for visitors to the town."

The regeneration team admits the seafront and harbour site has been complicated to plan and will be expensive to develop, with flood defences, public and private transport and demand on infrastructure all issues that need to be addressed.

The outline application envisages a range of housing units, from one-bedroom flats to larger luxury homes.

The market for these is expected to come from existing residents attracted by the opportunity to live by the sea as well as buyers who are relocating to the area, attracted equally by Folkestone's 55-minute journey time to London.

Farrell's team has worked on the principle that sea views will be optimised, residents will have access to outdoor/garden space and that new public space will be created.

There is potential for job-creation during the construction phase and in the longer term in the infrastructure supporting the new community, including in shops and restaurants within the development area, say the backers.

Folkestone Harbour Company's Trevor Minter said: "This outline plan is an important step towards realising a once-in-a-century opportunity to create a seafront of which Folkestone can be proud. The challenges are enormous, but we are determined to get the formula right, even if this takes time."

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Firms turn to virtual offices in bid to bring down overheads

By Joe Bill
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OFFICE jobs could become a thing of the past as the number of companies taking part in 'virtual working' – where there is no defined physical workplace – rises in the county.

According to virtual-office-supplier Regus, new and growing firms in Kent are turning their backs on large offices and expensive buildings.

Regus claims that fixed overheads, especially full-time physical premises, are causing more companies to consider alternative solutions for the way their employees work.

The group says that demand for virtual-office services in the county is at an unprecedented high, with 42 per cent of firms in Maidstone, for example, citing "reducing fixed workspace" as one of their top ways of cutting costs without damaging growth prospects, while 27 per cent report they are bolstering their workforce with flexible workers and freelancers rather than full-time staff.

One firm using the virtual option is Answers & Solutions Kent, a group that provides outsourced business-to-business marketing services.

Managing director Richard Romain said: "In order to thrive in today's challenging economic climate and to keep our fees competitive, we operate a slim and virtual business model which involves using trusted freelancers rather than full-time staff and not having physical premises.

"I started working from home and hired a separate company specifically to answer our calls.

"Although I had a nice custom-built home office, I never felt it was professional to meet clients in my own home, but I got tired of meeting them at hotels. While the call-handling company was competent, it was very expensive.

"So I took a virtual office at the Regus West Malling centre last year. They deliver the service that the call-handling company was delivering plus a whole virtual-office function for less money.

"I cannot now understand why any business would want an answering-machine when they can have their calls answered by a real person.

"The West Malling centre receptionists know me and treat my customers the way I want them to be treated."

A number of successful entrepreneurs have admitted starting their business with a virtual office – including Dragons' Den star James Caan, who started out with a virtual office in Pall Mall, central London.

Clients can use 'on demand' services like booking private meeting rooms or daily office space, or even have their business post delivered there.

Steve Purdy, UK managing director at Regus, said: "We attribute the strong demand for our virtual office to the rising number of home-based and small businesses looking for workspace support that is low-cost, low-risk and can dramatically increase productivity.

"Local entrepreneurs are really embracing the potential of the new, virtual way of doing business, banishing the rigid 20th-century attitude that it is necessary to have a full-time, physical workplace.

"When you're starting out, it is crucial to have a fixed business address that you can use on company stationery and that will receive mail, a local phone number and someone on hand to answer your calls.

"Your customers don't care where you are carrying out the work, as long as they can get hold of you at a central point."

VIRTUAL FAN: Richard Romain, of Answers & Solutions Kent

European success for cross-Channel trains

BEST SUPPLIER: Eurotunnel is a winner with Deutsche Bahn

EUROTUNNEL has won the 2012 Deutsche Bahn award for Best Supplier at a European railways event held in Berlin.

The prize recognises the best overall performance by an infrastructure or rolling-stock specialist.

The German rail network collaborates with almost 35,000 suppliers across the world, so its recognition of the cross-Channel rail operator underlines the commitment by Eurotunnel to deliver a reliable and environmentally-friendly freight-shuttle service to its customers, say its managers.

Dr Rüdiger Grube, chairman of Deutsche Bahn, said: "Eurotunnel's freight shuttles have earned this prize for their speed, ease of use and the safety with which they enable haulers to make deliveries between the Continent and Great Britain and back.

"Eurotunnel is the most environmentally-friendly cross-Channel operator, helping Deutsche Bahn reduce the carbon footprint."

Jacques Gounon, chairman and chief executive officer of Groupe Eurotunnel SA, said: "I am proud to see Eurotunnel's commitment to the quality of its service has been recognised by a railway operator of the reputation of Deutsche Bahn.

"Operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, is proof of the constant attention we bring to our customers' needs, and a measure of our competitive edge."

National recognition for financial-services firm

ACCOUNTANCY and financial-services company Reeves has been named finalist in the Mid Tier Firm category and the Tax Award of the Year – Non Global Firm category at the British Accountancy Awards.

In 2011 Reeves won the title of Best Employer in a category backed by Accountancy Age and the Best Companies Group. Reeves also won the prestigious national award for Best Large Firm of the Year at the Accountancy Age Awards in 2009.

Clive Stevens, managing partner at Reeves, which has offices in Canterbury and Chatham, said: "I am delighted Reeves has been recognised.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Reeves as they are fundamental to the firm's success."

Cable earmarks £1bn for business bank

GOVERNMENT plans to provide £1 billion towards a new bank that will increase lending to businesses have been applauded in Kent.

Business Secretary Vince Cable told the Liberal Democrat conference that the move was to help many small and medium-sized companies that have struggled for credit since the financial crisis began.

The bank will operate via existing lenders and start within 18 months.

It is hoped that the money will be matched by private-sector investment.

The details of where the state funding will come from and the bank's operation will not be made public until Wednesday, December 5, Lib Dem officials said.

Government support will be in the form of both guarantees and equity and will go on to the balance sheet of the new institution and not be reclaimed by the Treasury.

There is a chance that it could generate returns, however.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "The 'small business bank' is a good thing – we've been calling for this for a long time and we are delighted to see it finally get off the ground. The FSB has carried out significant research assessing similar models in the US and Europe.

"FSB believes the new 'small business bank' will stimulate competition among the high-street banks, in particular the so-called Big Five. The FSB says the move will also open the door to alternative lenders and create new ways for small businesses to get finance, such as credit unions.

"We are certain the newly-created 'small business bank' will help boost confidence and deliver growth in the economy."

Cable promised a more coherent strategy to help get the UK out of recession.

He said: "We need a new British business bank with a clean balance sheet and an ability to expand lending rapidly to the manufacturers, exporters and high-growth companies that power our economy.

"Today I can announce we will have one. I am working with the Chancellor to develop a state-backed institution that will combine up to a billion pounds of new Government capital with a larger private-sector contribution.

"This will then apply further leverage through guarantees to support up to £10bn of finance to SMEs [small and medium enterprises] and mid-sized business – a significant portion of all the lending available.

"To that end, I believe we need an industrial strategy – a positive and ambitious vision built around long-term investment and innovation in skills and science.

"We are so good at so many things in this country, but for too long the mirage of growth based on property speculation and financial gambling has hidden the harder virtues of making things productively.

"We must get behind successful British-based firms in vehicles, aerospace, life sciences and creative industries and our world-class scientists and universities."

John Longworth, director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said the Government had "taken a decisive step toward the creation of a British business bank by committing real money to get it off the ground.

"We are pleased that ministers are heeding our call to create a business bank that goes well beyond a re-badging of existing schemes.

"The funding announced by Vince Cable is the first step in a journey toward a British business bank that enables new and growing companies to get access to capital in the same way that they do in Germany, South Korea and the USA."

Training, courses and careers

MidKent upgrade puts it in excellent shape for future

ONGOING improvements at both its Medway and Maidstone campuses prove MidKent College is still in good shape to deliver excellent education, say officials.

The Maidstone campus is currently undergoing a £25m makeover and the state-of-the-art Medway campus is receiving further upgrades to its existing facilities.

And the college says it is still accepting late entries onto its hundreds of courses to ensure students who may have made the wrong decisions elsewhere are not left out in the cold.

Acting principal Sue McLeod said: "The Learning and Skills Council has assessed our financial strength as 'outstanding', which is why we have been able to invest so significantly in both our Medway and Maidstone campuses.

"Our financial management and governance has also received the highest rating possible, which has been confirmed through subsequent reports from both internal and external auditors.

"What this means is that both prospective and existing students can be confident of receiving the best education in top quality premises."

The redevelopment of the Maidstone Campus started earlier this year and will bring the site up to the standard of its Medway counterpart, which opened in 2009 at a cost of £86m.

Due for completion in December, 2013, the Maidstone makeover also includes refurbishment of the premises formerly occupied by the University for the Creative Arts.

Meanwhile, a number of rooms at the Medway campus were also extended or renovated over the summer, including the introduction of a workshop to house the new motor vehicle course as well as a new live performance and recording facility for music students.

Medway putting itself on show at Construction Expo

A SPECIAL day has been put aside in Medway to showcase the area's qualities when it comes to beating the recession.

Visitors will get the chance to see the area's employment opportunities.

Businesses and industry leaders from across the South East and London will descend on the Construction Expo on October 11.

The day is designed to boost employment and regeneration in the area, and form part of an Employment and Skills Day across the area.

The expo will feature leading architects and building contractors right down to small local businesses and people looking for a future career in construction.

The event is aimed at attracting potential developers and offering advice on how to kick-start a career in construction.

It is backed by Medway Council and is being staged at slip 5 of the Historic Dockyard, Chatham. It includes 12 free workshops and speakers such as interior designer and TV presenter, Oliver Heath.

A jobs and apprenticeships fair with more than 50 local employers and training providers will also be held all day at the Brook Theatre, Chatham, offering details on the latest vacancies and courses with the retail, hospitality and security sectors as its focus.

For more information about the Employment and Skills Day, visit www.medway.gov.uk/expo.

College offers range of courses to sixth formers having a change of heart

NORTH West Kent College has an autumn fast-track programme for young people who feel they have made the wrong choice about their education and is offering them with the opportunity to change their mind and go to college.

The courses start on November 5 at the newly re-developed Dartford and Gravesend campuses and the new sustainable construction centre, SusCon.

The college says that school sixth-form is not always the right choice for everyone and it is not uncommon for young people to realise this in the first few weeks of term.

This does not mean that students should be afraid to change their mind. North West Kent College is offering students in this position the chance start a new course that suits them at the college.

It offers a range of courses and levels with something to suit everyone in: hair, beauty, business, secretarial, computing, construction, sustainable construction, engineering, catering, art and design, music, media, performing arts, professional care, sport, travel and tourism, public services, and gateway learning.

A free shuttle bus service is available from Dartford station to the Dartford campus, and from Medway and Hoo to the Gravesend campus. Both campuses also have free car parking.

SOCIAL SCENE: North West Kent College says it has a wide range of course places ready to start in November

The college says it has an excellent record of providing a pathway to employment and university, and that £90 million has been invested in new facilities at both campuses, which provides some of the best training opportunities in the country.

The college says it is committed to helping students achieve their ambition, whether they wish to achieve high-level professional qualifications or gain the skills to get their first job.

David Gleed, principal of North West Kent College said: "Don't just arrange to come and talk to our staff, arrange to come and talk to our students too and find out why they chose North West Kent College.

"Our students are our best ambassadors and their success is our greatest achievement."

Octopus students get their tentacles on a new car thanks to motor dealer

A MOTOR vehicle training college is to benefit from a new partnership with a car business.

Dagenham Motors, based in Gillingham and Strood, has donated a spare vehicle to motor vehicle college Octopus Opportunities to help develop its training programme.

The Ford Escort will be used by the Rochester college to help students get first-hand experience in motor vehicle maintenance and repair.

Dagenham Motors business manager Dave Rodgers said: "As a local business we feel it is important for us to contribute to the community, which is why we want to support our local colleges and learning centres.

"The students currently studying for motor vehicle qualifications are the service technicians of the future and we want them to have the best training possible."

Octopus Opportunities managing director Jon Whitfield said: "We would like to say a big thank you to Dagenham Motors for donating this vehicle to us.

"The car will be invaluable to the learning and development of our students. There is no alternative to first-hand direct experience of vehicle maintenance and repair."

DRIVE: Dagenham Motors' Dave Rodgers and Jon Whitfield of Octopus Opportunities flank the motor repair students

Schools & education

UCA marks 25th birthday of Where's Wally? books

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: UCA Maidstone

WHERE'S Wally? Well, no-one is ever quite sure, but one thing is certain – it's the 25th anniversary of him being launched in Maidstone.

He was created a quarter of a century ago by a graduate of the University for the Creative Arts.

Martin Handford graduated in 1980 from UCA Maidstone when it was called Maidstone College of Art.

He saw his crowd-pleasing book published for the first time on September 21, 1987.

Since then, the sky has been the limit, and more than 58 million Where's Wally? books have been sold in 38 countries.

UCA BA (Hons) Illustration course leader, Jane Cradock-Watson, said: "Where's Wally? has become a global phenomenon thanks to Martin's high-quality illustrations and the ingenious visual challenge/puzzle that he brought to books for the first time.

"The illustrations and storylines actively encourage reader participation – making them quite addictive – but they also feature an improbable male main character which has encouraged young boys, in particular, to spend more time looking at books and to read.

"The highly visual premise, with less reliance on text, means the books translate well across language barriers and cultural differences and appeal to an international audience."

The author and illustrator said it was at art college that he learned the craft of illustration and where he developed his colourful style which lost little when printed.

Ms Cradock-Watson added: "They always say that the years at art college are the most valuable as it's the time to experiment, make mistakes and try new things, so it's great to hear that Martin recognised the value of this.

"He is a very visible example of how it's possible to be very successful in illustration if you work hard at it."

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Public Appointments

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Catering Assistant, Part-time, term time only — **Ref: P0550**

Salary: £13,807 pro rata - Maidstone Campus, 18.5 hours per week

The successful applicant will have experience of working in the catering industry and understand the importance of health and safety in the kitchen and restaurant environment. The postholder will be expected to support the catering and hospitality lecturers during lessons to ensure that students observe safe practices and clean their working areas to the required standard. The postholder will be expected to carry out cleaning duties as required. A qualification in food safety/hygiene is desirable.

Closing date: Thursday 11 October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

To advertise in this section

01303 817056

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Musical Theatre Lecturer, full time, permanent — **Ref: P0272**

Salary: £26,836 - £31,218 (dependent on experience and qualifications)
37 hours per week - Medway Campus

Mid-Kent College is looking to recruit an enthusiastic and dedicated Musical Theatre Lecturer to lead the HND programme within a successful Performing Arts department. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a high level of vocational experience, direct productions, be able to co-ordinate/work alongside existing teachers to develop, and expand, Musical Theatre both within the college and in the local community. The successful candidate will be responsible for planning and delivering, to a high standard, specialist units to Level 3 students on the BTEC Extended Diploma in Musical Theatre and the Level 4 HNC/D in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) courses.

Lecturer in Media, full time, permanent — **Ref: P0618**

Salary: £26,336 - 30,118 per annum, (dependent on qualifications and experience)
37 hours per week Medway Campus

A full-time Media Lecturer is required to teach in a busy and thriving Media department. The post requires teaching and leading curriculum for Level 2 and 3 BTEC students with a range of abilities. Ideally, the candidate should have a background within the Media and TV industry, and an excellent knowledge of the Final cut Pro 7 video editing package. Some knowledge of Avid Media Composer 5 and above would also be beneficial with a working knowledge of a TV studio.

Hourly paid Lecturer in Media — **Ref: SESS**

Hourly Rate: £15.80 - £23.30 per hour (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

A flexible media sessional lecturer is required to teach a minimum of 10 hours per week with the Media department. The ideal candidate should hold a teaching qualification and have experience with BTEC and vocational qualifications. Current industry knowledge is desirable, specifically within the television and film industries

Learning Support Practitioner, term time only, permanent — **Ref: LSP01**

Salary: £19,464 per annum, pro rata - 37 hours per week
Medway & Maidstone Campus

We are looking to appoint an excellent, committed and enthusiastic Learning Support Practitioner to deliver quality support for learners in FE. You will need to be an effective team player with a flexible approach, working with learners across the College who have been identified as having specific learning difficulties or needing support with Literacy or Numeracy. You will hold a relevant qualification in learner support or be willing to undertake this as part of your professional development.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality — **Ref: SESS**

Hourly Rate: £22.45 - £27.22 per hour (Dependent on Qualifications and Experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking to appoint a passionate and creative individual to teach on a variety of practical catering qualifications, facilitating student learning and achievement. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Recent industry experience is essential.

Apprentice, Full-time — **Ref: App**

Medway/Maidstone Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in our Examinations Department. The successful candidate will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within Business Administration. Working within tight deadlines, you should be methodical, flexible, and familiar with MS Office.
Training allowance: £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion

Closing date: 5th October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Candidates must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Hourly-paid Lecturer in Maths — **Ref: SESS**

Hourly rate: £23.44 - £31.10 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver the one-year Maths A Level programme. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant academic qualification and have a teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Electrical Installation, full time, permanent — **Ref: P0070**

Salary: £30,718 - £34,505 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical Installation qualifications to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The ideal candidate will have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The successful candidate will need to hold an Advanced Electrical Certificate, including Inspection and testing of Installations and an interest in environmental technologies is also expected. Applicants should possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards teaching and assessing qualifications.

Hourly Paid Learning Support Assistants — **Ref: LSA01**

Hourly Rate: £9.38 per hour - Variable Hours
Medway & Maidstone Campus

The College is looking to recruit Learning Support Assistants to support students throughout the department in the implementation of additional needs. The ideal candidate will have the ability to work in a manner to support the changing needs of students ensuring differentiation is implemented within the classroom and have experience of supporting young adults with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Closing date: 5th October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Public Appointments

Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a....

Temporary Art Therapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B2 - point 32 to 41 (£27,052 to £34,549)
(2 days per week - term time only - pro rata - to July 2013)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Art Therapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 13 hours p/w, term time only across both sites. Candidates should hold a relevant Art Therapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 05.10.12 Interview Date 16.10.12

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1554/S - HEADCORN HALL, BIDDENDEN ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9JD - Demolition of existing property Headcorn Hall and associated outbuildings and erection of 10 detached houses; creation of new vehicular access via Shenley Road and provision of access road and associated landscaping.**Reason: 6**

MA/12/1665/S - ST HELENS MONTESSORI SCHOOL, LOWER ROAD, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0JT - Repositioning of tennis court previously approved under MA/11/1134.**Reason: 1**

MA/12/1669/N - 97A, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SA - Listed building consent for internal works and replacement windows to facilitate the conversion of office accommodation into 2no. two bedroom flats.**Reason: 2 3**

MA/12/1673/S - HEARNDEN COTTAGE, EAST SUTTON ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9PS - Conversion of stables to annexe and extension of barn to form workshop.**Reason: 1**

MA/12/1680/N - LAND TO THE WEST OF MARLEY PLASTICS, ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2DE - Provision of swales and an infiltration basin.**Reason: 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 -Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 -Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 -Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 -Application is Major Development.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **14th October 2012** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated: 30th September 2012**

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02356/HOUSE 1 Nevill Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater

- Removal of redundant external staircase and steps plus upper ground utility room. Extend the existing lower ground floor garage and utility areas. Construct new upper ground floor breakfast room, utility area and new rear terrace with conservatory extension. Formation of new opening in position of existing arch (LB) (CA)

12/02590/FULMJ Part OS Plot 0582 Common Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst

- Erection of 11 local needs dwellings together with access and associated landscaping (MAJOR)

12/02533/FUL Flat 2 75 Mount Ephriam, Culverden

- Creation of external terrace area on existing flat roof, replacement of window with french doors (CA)

12/02535/HOUSE The Dovecot Home Farm, Goudhurst

- Part Retrospective - Alterations to existing dwelling (LB)

12/02539/FUL The Old Dairy Home Farm, Gounhurst

- Part Retrospective - Conversion of The Old Dairy to form dwelling (LB)

12/01925/HOUSE Butterfly Cottage Mount Pleasant, Lamberhurst

- Replacement and relocation of heating oil tank (LB)

12/01926/LBC Butterfly Cottage Mount Pleasant, Lamberhurst

- Listed Building Consent - Replacement and relocation of heating oil tank (LB)

12/02580/HOUSE 40 Pennington Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council

- Demolition of lean to, side entrance porch and steps, chimney and detached garage. Construction of single storey side and rear extension with pitched roof; alterations to ground floor, rear windows and insertion of sliding/folding doors and verandah; insertion of front sash window to basement; insertion of velux windows to roof and insertion of lantern light to flat section of roof (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email adresses on the internet.

Jonathan Macdonald - For the Head of Planning Services

Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 29 September 2012

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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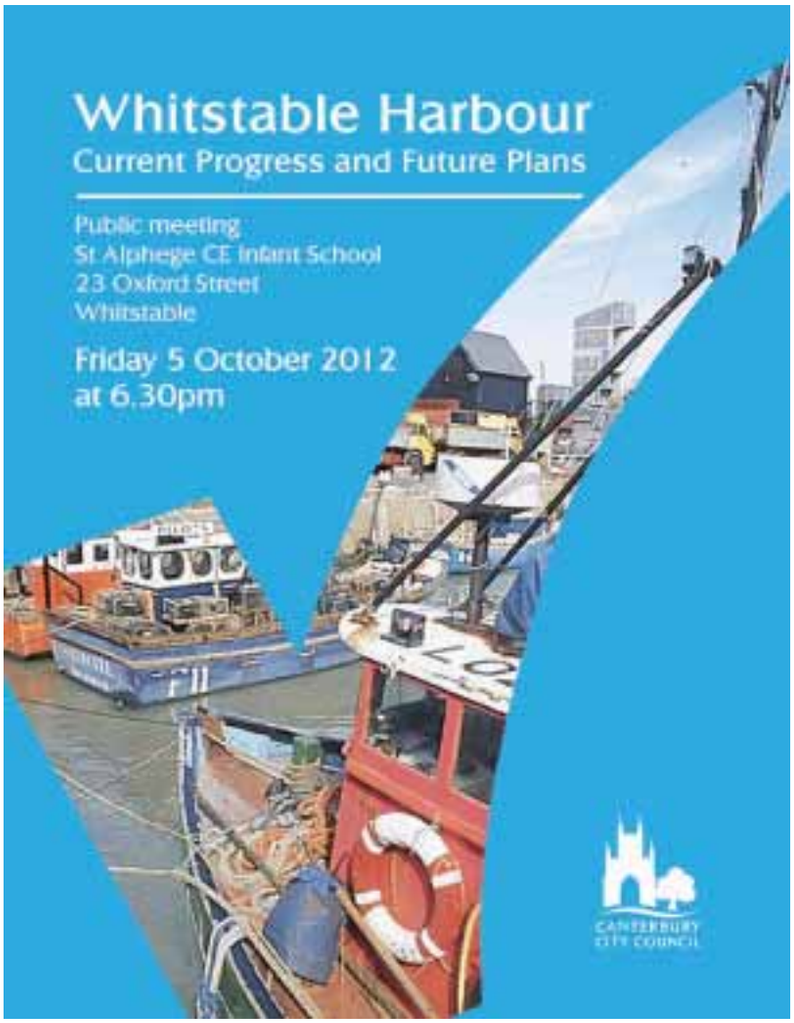

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01529/FUL: Owletts, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT5 3PD Pitch roof to existing garage incorporating dormer window to front and rear roofslopes. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs McGeehan** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01573/FUL: Flat 11 Clifton Gardens, Clifton Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DQ Replacement timber windows with uPVC to front and rear elevations of flat. **Applicant: Mrs Arnold** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01582/FUL: Otters Quest, Seaton Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RW Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs C Stacey** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01618/ADV: Former Habitat UK Ltd, St Andrew's Close, Canterbury, CT1 2RL Installation of illuminated and non-illuminated signage. **Applicant: Aldi Stores Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01624/FUL: 30 Central Parade, Herne Bay, CT6 5HX First-floor extension over existing garage to provide ancillary accommodation. **Applicant: Mr L Barwick** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01631/VAR: 11-12 Orchard Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AP Variation of condition 03 of planning permission CA/12/00468/FUL relating to conversion of public house to two dwellings with ground and first-floor extensions and associated internal and external alterations; variation in respect of approved drawings including the retention and re-roofing of rear outhouse, provision of additional rooflights to first-floor extension, re-arrangement of staircase and interior of number 11 and retention of entrance lobbies. **Applicant: Hill Property Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01639/FUL: Norman House, 6 St Thomas Hill, Canterbury, CT2 8EH Erection of one dwelling and garage. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs R Hayward** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01647/VAR: Land adjacent to 26 Beach Walk, Whitstable, CT5 2BP Retention of development without compliance with condition 08 of planning permission CA/12/00048/FUL relating to the approved drawings enabling alterations to the site position of the approved dwelling and the insertion of inverted dormers to the side elevation. **Applicant: Mr J Bloice** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01652/FUL: The Haven, Out Elmstead Lane, Barham, CT4 6PG Replacement dwelling with detached garage and new vehicular access. (Resubmission). **Applicant: Mr P Wiggins** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01656/LB: Brooklands, Fordwich Road, Fordwich, CT2 0BS Internal alterations and insertion of a new window. **Applicant: Mr Thorgerson** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01658/FUL: Brooklands, Fordwich Road, Fordwich, CT2 0BS Change of use from commercial offices to a residential dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Thorgerson** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 22 October 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 28 September 2012

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 15 OCTOBER 2012

SW/11/1622:
New access & double five bar gate (retrospective) - Fairmeadow Farm, Swanton Street, BREDGAR; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1034:
Demolition of existing premises and construction of 6 two bedroom flats with associated parking (PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO RED LINE AREA) - 7 High Street, MINSTER; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1107 &
SW/12/1108:
Alterations to Listed Building including insertion of new windows and stud partitions; new entrance doors and conservatory and construction of detached garage building - Culnells Farm, School Lane, IWADE; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1119:
Change of use of bungalow to accommodation for agricultural workers - Sandhole Bungalow, Kemsdale Road, HERNHILL; **REASON 6**

SW/12/1126:
Two storey side and rear extension, reducing to single storey height at South East corner, internal alterations including enlargement of basement, erection of railed walkway and landscaping to rear - 113 High Street, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1147 &
SW/12/1148:
Single storey extension to the rear of a 2 storey terraced house to kitchen and dining room - 33 Norman Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0811/SH - 43 - 47 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 1RZ - Installation of two internally illuminated panel signs to existing ATMs to replace existing ATM panel signs and three internally illuminated poster signs to ground floor front and side windows.
Y12/0816/SH* - 20 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JJ - Listed building consent to replace 3 windows to 1st and 2nd floor.
Y12/0854/SH+ - Woodsetts Dental Street Hythe Kent CT21 5LH - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising of the felling of fourteen trees and various pruning works to six trees.
Y12/0843/SH - 94 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2BE - Erection of an external staircase to the rear elevation to provide separate access to the existing maisonette, together with other external alterations.
Y12/0752/SH - 28 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JJ - Erection of a side extension.
Y12/0797/SH - 8 Cliffe House Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2TY - Installation of 16 roof mounted solar photovoltaic panels together with associated mountings and equipment.
Y12/0820/SH - Rivendell School Lane Newington Folkestone Kent - Re-pollard back to previous pollard points of a Maple tree situated within a conservation area.
Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.
Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:
- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney
+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe
Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.
The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.
C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/AS/0306/2012 - Proposed development at Glebe Farm, Duck Lane, Shadoxhurst, Kent, TN26 1LT.

Highview Park Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for development of a facility for the processing and storage of End of Life Vehicles (ELV), with construction of a concrete slab base, 93sqm processing building, weighbridge, portable cabin and welfare facilities, and use of a mobile crane and crusher.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden.

KCC/DA/0334/2012 - Proposed development at Long Reach Sewage Treatment Works, Marsh Street, Dartford, Kent, DA1 5PP.

Thames Water is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for upgrade to sewage treatment works including sludge cake storage building, odour control stack, kiosks, containerised plant and associated works.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

KCC/SW/0309/2012 - Proposed development at Land within Ridham Dock, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8SR.

SITA UK is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for construction and operation of a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and Waste Transfer Station (WTS) for Commercial and Industrial and Municipal Solid Waste and ancillary staff and fleet vehicle parking, vehicle workshop, 2 x weighbridges, fuel tank, sprinkler tank, pump house, substation and improved access and office and welfare facility.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

KCC/TW/0524/2011 - Proposed development at Westdene, Whetsted Road, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 6SD.

CLC Construction Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for retrospective change of use from breakers yard and ancillary storage of damaged vehicles and trailers to site office and open storage, screening and crushing, of spoil from road works/excavations and installation of lighting.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/CA/0338/2012 - Proposed development at St John's Primary School, St John's Place, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1BD.

KCC Property Group is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for the partial demolition of building known as AEC (Adult Education Centre), new 2 storey building within retained façade of AEC, new link building to existing Primary School, minor demolition to part of wc on rear elevation of existing Primary School and associated landscaping and external works. The proposed development is within the Canterbury City Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance and also affects the setting of nearby listed buildings. The development site is in close proximity to and may affect a public right of way.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 30 September 2012

Kent County Council

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

BLACKWALL ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Blackwall Road, Ashford, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Blackwall Road North and Goodcheap Lane.

The alternative route is via Blackwall Road South, A2070 Kennington Road, The Street, Hinxhill Road, Naccolt Road, Blackwall and Blackwall Road.

CHURCH ROAD, SEVINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Sevington, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the west of the junction with Cheeseman's Green Lane.

The alternative route is via Highfield Road, A20 Hythe Road, Willesborough Interchange, B2070 Bad Munstereifel Road and Church Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)

AMENDMENT NO. 1 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82,

83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to :-

(1) install a 40mph speed limit on Smallhythe Road and Peening Quarter Road, Smallhythe (2) extend the

40mph speed limit on Faversham Road, Charing to Stalisfield Road, Charing and (3) extend the 40mph

limit on Bethersden Road, Shadoxhurst to Cherry Garden Farm.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or

at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Amanda Murdoch, Ashford

Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email

tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 22/10/2012.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

EDDINGTON LANE, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Eddington Lane, Eddington Way, A2990 Thanet Way and B2205 Canterbury Road.

The road will be closed in phases, working from the junction with Canterbury Road as far as the bridge near Eddington Way. The closures will be between the various side roads, with access to the side roads maintained.

Progress with the works will depend on weather and ground conditions, and the extent of the closures will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

ESSEX STREET & KENT STREET, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of phone cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Essex Street and Kent Street, Whitstable, at their junctions with Harwich Street, as shown below.

ESSEX STREET will be closed from 15 October 2012 for 1 (or possibly 2) days.

The alternative route is via Essex Street, Forge Lane and Canterbury Road.

KENT STREET will be closed from 16 or 17 October (once Essex Street re-opened) for 1 (or possibly 2) days.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane and Essex Street.

The closure of Kent Street will follow that of Essex Street, as advised locally and signposted on site.

The closures are for 1-2 days each, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

JUBILEE ROAD, LITTLEBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Jubilee Road, Littlebourne, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 5 days, between 8.00 am and 4.30 pm.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A257 High Street, Nargate Street and Church Road.

MIDDLE WALL, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Middle Wall, Whitstable, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 74, with no access for through traffic between the entrance to the car park and the junction with Waterloo Road.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Middle Wall, B2205 High Street and Terry's Lane.

Northbound via Terry's Lane, B2205 Horsebridge Road, Sea Street, Harbour Street and High Street.

SPENSER ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Spenser Road, Herne Bay, on or after 1 October 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Canterbury Road to outside number 87, with no access for through traffic between the junctions with Canterbury Road and Douglas Road.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Mickleburgh Hill and Douglas Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

B2174 PRINCES ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carrying out resurfacing works and to provide adequate protection for the work force , Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2174 Princes Road , on or after 18 October 2012 for up to 14 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed 170 m west of Heath Lane Lower Road to 120m east of Heath Lane Lower Road.

The alternative route is via westbound A225 Lowfield Street, A226 Instone Road, Highfield Road, West Hill and A2018 Shepherds Lane Eastbound A2018 Shepherds Lane, West Hill, A226 Westgate Road, Home Gardens and A225 Lowfield Street .

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

COOMBE LANE, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coombe Lane, Ash, on or after 17 October 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Coombe Vineyard and Coombe Cottage, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Moat Lane, The Street, New Street and Coombe Lane.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

ABBEY ROAD, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Gas main replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Abbey Road, Gravesend, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 18 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at its junction with Old Road East, Gravesend.

The alternative route is via Bellman Avenue, Rochester Road and Old Road East.

FORGE LANE, HIGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Resurfacing works in scope with S278 works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Forge Lane, Higham at its junction with A226 Gravesend Road, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via:

Westbound - Forge Lane, Villa Road and A226 Gravesend Road.

Eastound - Gravesend Road, Villa Road, School Lane and Hermitage Road.

THE TERRACE, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Gas main replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Terrace and Queen Street, Gravesend, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in 2 phases. Phase 1 - One way order prohibiting eastbound traffic from its junction with Royal Pier Road. No Right turn into The Terrace from East Terrace. No Left turn into The Terrace from Clarendon Road when appriate signage is in place.

Phase 2 - Queen Street, Gravesend to be closed for its entire length when appriate signage is in place.

The alternative route is via Milton Road, Windmill Street, Clive Road, Darnley Road, Bath Street, West Street, The Terrace and Hamer Street.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

PILGRIMS WAY, THURNHAM AND REGINALD ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of kerbing and carriageway patching repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way, Thurnham

on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 2 days and Reginald Road, Maidstone, on or after 2 December 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Pilgrims Way will be closed from the junction with The Street to Thurnham Lane and Reginald Road will be closed from the junction with Hever Road to Charles Street.

The alternative route for Pilgrims Way is via Thurnham Lane, Ware Street, Hockers Lane, The Street and for Reginald Road is via Bower Place, Bower Lane, Florence Road, Charles Street.

WORKHOUSE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to clear out a soak away, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Workhouse Lane, East Farleigh, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The full length of road will be closed.

The alternative route is via Stockett Lane, B2163 Heath Road, Dean Street.

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL hereby makes the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984:

The effect of the named Order (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines; SYL and loading restrictions means no waiting at the times prescribed below).

MAIDSTONE:

Heathfield Close; DYL, both sides, that length which extends from its junction with Heathfield Road for a distance of 56 metres in a northerly direction.

Heathfield Road; DYL, both sides, that length which extends from a point 15 metres southeast of its junction with St Francis Close to a point 118 metres southeast of its junction with St Francis Close in a south easterly direction.

Rushmead Drive; DYL, both sides, that length which extends from its junction with the A229 Loose Road for a distance of 17 metres in a south westerly direction.

Tudor Avenue; DYL, northern side, that length which extends from a point 12 metres north of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 66 metres from its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from a point 36 metres east of its junction with Norman Close to its junction with Norman Close in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from its junction of Norman Close western side for a distance of 26 metres in a westerly direction.

And both sides, that length which extends from a point 71 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue to its junction with Park Avenue in a south westerly direction.

Tudor Avenue; DYL, Southern side, that length which extends from a point 17 metres south of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 60 metres west of its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from a point 154 metres west from its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 153 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue in a westerly then a south westerly direction.

Tudor Avenue; SYL, Mon - Sat 11.00am - 1.00pm, northern side, that length which extends from a point 67 metres west of its junction with A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 36 metres east of its junction with Norman Close in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from a point 35 metres west of its junction with Norman Close to a point 71 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue in a south westerly direction.

Tudor Avenue; SYL, Mon - Sat 11.00am - 1.00pm, southern side, that length which extends from a point 60 metres west of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road to a point 154 metres west of its junction with the A249 Sittingbourne Road in a westerly direction.

And that length which extends from a point 153 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue to a point 71 metres northeast of its junction with Park Avenue in a south westerly direction.

BEARSTED

Emsworth Grove; DYL, both sides, that length which extends 90 metres from its junction with Hampton Road in a south-easterly then a south-westerly direction.

The Order will come into effect on the 08th day of October 2012.

Full details are contained in the Order, any Orders which will be amended by the Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Reception Desk, Maidstone Borough Council Offices, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ and at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of an order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that a requirement of any such enabling Act or of any relevant regulations made thereunder has not been complied with, may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application to the High Court.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS) (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (VARIOUS TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO. 1) ORDER 2012

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 82 (2); 83 (2); and 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984, propose to make an Order to:-

1. Introduce Prohibition of Right Turns from Sturry Road, Canterbury into the access road to the development located 200 metres north east from Sturry Road's junction with Vauxhall Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, 4 Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Paul Thrower, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk, quoting the title of the Order by noon on 22nd October 2012.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

BURLINGS LANE, KNOCKHOLT (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of new gas service to be installed , Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Burlings Lane, Knockholt, on or after 1st October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Burwood.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Main road and Shelleys Lane.

The alternative route is via Main Road and Shelleys Lane.

CASTLE HILL, HARTLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Castle Hill, Hartley, on or after 15th October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Steep Hill to the junction of Ash Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junction of Steep Hill to the junction of Ash Road.

The alternative route is via: approaching from the East, the diversion route is north Along Ash Road Hartley and Hartley Road Longfield and then west along Main Road Longfield then south along Fawkham Road Longfield and Fawkham Road Fawkham and then east along Castle Hill. The diversion for traffic approaching from the west is the same but reversed.

COLD ARBOR ROAD, CHEVENING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of footway improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cold Arbor Road, Chevening, on or after 1st October 2012 for up to 6 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with A25 Westerham Road.

There will be no access for through traffic at the junction with A25 Westerham Road.

The alternative route is via Cold Arbor Road, Bessels Green Road, Wheatsheaf Hill, Ide Hill Road, Green Lane, Toys Field Road, Spot Lane, Hose Common Road, Hosey Hill, A25 Brasted Road, A25 Main Road, A25 Westerham Road.

PARK PLACE, CHEVENING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Park Place, Chevening, on or after 15th October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Bessels Green Road to the junction A25 Westerham Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Bessels Green Road to A25 Westerham Road.

The alternative route is via: approaching from the South, the diversion route is north west along Bessels Green Road, East along A25 Westerham Road. The diversion for traffic approaching from the East is the same but reversed.

WELLFIELD, HARTLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make Order prohibiting through traffic on Wellfield, Hartley, on or after 15th October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction of Ash Road and Larkwell Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Ash Road to Larkwell Lane.

The alternative route approaching from the west the diversion route is Ash Road, Larks Field, Woodland Avenue and Wellfield .

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

STOMBERS LANE, HAWKINGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stombers Lane, Hawkinge, on or after 1 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Bramdene, appoximately 120 metres to the east of the junction with Cowgate Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between Hawkinge and Alkham Valley Road using this route.

The alternative route is via Cowgate Lane, Standen Lane and Alkham Valley Road.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF SWALE) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under

Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to :-

Extend the 30mph limit on Leysdown Road, Leysdown westwards to a point just west of

Leysdown Road Layby. This is to implement a 30mph limit outside Warden Bay Primary School.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of

roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone,

Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford,

Kent TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Amanda

Murdoch, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford,

TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their

reasons, by no later than 22/10/2012.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

BRADBOURNE LANE, DITTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bradbourne Lane, Ditton, on or after 16 October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between St Peters Road and the end of the road at "The Ford".

There is no alternative route.

COPT HALL ROAD, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to upgrade the water supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Copt Hall Road, Ightham, on or after 1 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via A25 Sevenoaks Road, Common Road.

LONG MILL LANE AND COMP LANE, PLATT, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Long Mill Lane on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 6 weeks and on Comp Lane on or after 26 November 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Long Mill Lane will be closed from the junction with Grange Road to Comp Lane and Comp Lane will be closed from the junction with Long Mill Lane to 50 metres after The Old School Hall.

The alternative route for Long Mill Lane is via A25 Maidstone Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Comp Lane and for Comp Lane is via Long Mill Lane, A25 Maidstone Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MILL STREET, LEVEL CROSSING, SNODLAND (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Street at the level crossing on or after Sunday 7th October 2012 between 08.00hrs and 20.00hrs for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for a RSM inspection at the level crossing. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Kirsty Mallinson on 01924 372957.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES) ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, propose to make an Order, the effect of which would be to :-

Prohibit any motor vehicle or mechanically propelled vehicle along the length of the service road fronting properties 279 to 321 St Johns Road and along the entire length of St Johns Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any property situated on these roads.

A copy of the proposed Order, together with the plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds, in writing, to Laura Squires, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on 22nd October 2012.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 30th September 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS19

IN THE PARISH OF MINSTER ON SEA

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS19 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close part of Public Footpath ZS19 between NGR TQ 920 690 and NGR TQ 921 690 from the 15th October 2012. The section of path to be closed is approximately 600 metres south east of the Kingsferry Bridge.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 14 December 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is around the site compound on the landward side of the seawall and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS TM35, TM37 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY TM35A

IN THE PARISH OF BIRCHINGTON

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS TM35, TM37 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY TM35A (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed the following from 21st September 2012

1) Public Footpath TM35 between the junction with Footpath TM36 (NGR TR 279 693) and the junction with Public Bridleway TM35A (NGR TR 290 682)
2) Public Bridleway TM35A between its junctions with Footpaths TM35 (NGR TR 290 682) and Public Footpath TM32 (NGR TR 291 682)
3) Public Footpath TM37 between Ingoldsby Road and the junction with Essex Gardens / Devon Gardens.

The paths will be closed at the following time:

01:00 hrs Sunday 23rd September and 05:00 hrs Monday 24th September

Further short periods of closure will be required within a three month period which will be signed on site.

The paths are to be closed because works are planned on the railway tracks and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH TE3

IN THE PARISH OF ST NICHOLAS AT WADE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH TE3 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14 (1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath TE3 between the junction with Public Footpath TE1A (NGR TR 265 668) and the A299 Thanet Way from the 24th September 2012

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before November 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR473

IN THE PARISH OF AYLESFORD

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR473 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath MR473, between the junction with Public Footpath MR473A/KH36 (NGR TQ 741 585) and Lock Lane, Aylesford from the 24th September 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 24th November 2012.

The path is to be closed to install storm drains between the Travis Perkins site and the River Medway and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact:
Michele Snoding

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 30th September 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Application for a New Premises Licence

We Addington Inns Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, for the grant of a New Premises Licence for The Angel Inn in respect of the following licensable activities:-

1. sale by retail of alcohol,
2. the provision of regulated entertainment,
3. the provision of late night refreshment

In respect of the premises situated at Addington Green, West Malling, Kent ME19 5BB and known by the sign of The Angel Inn.

The application can be viewed at the offices of the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent. ME19 4LZ during normal office hours - www.tmbc.gov.uk

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application that is no later than 20th October 2012.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW,
8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicant.

Licensing Act 2003 Notice of application for a Premises Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I **Mr Halil Er** have applied to the **Gravesham Borough Council** for a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as **Taverna Food and Wine, 46 The Terrace, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2BJ** as follows:

Supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises:
From 08:00 to 23:00 Monday to Sunday

Any person wishing to make representation in respect of the above activities may do so by writing to The Licensing Section, Environmental and Public Health Services, 132 Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1BQ by 22 October 2012.

A copy of the application is kept by The Licensing Section, Environmental and Public Health Services, 132 Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1BQ. The application can be viewed Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm, except bank holidays.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale.

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Chart Hills Golf Club, Weeks Lane, Biddenden**
Applicant: **Mark Kerr**
Name of Premises: **Secret Garden, Mersham Le Hatch Business Village, Hythe Road, Ashford**
Applicant: **Stephanie Wanstall**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 NOTICE is given that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of NEVILLE PATRICK STEVENS late of 7 NORTH CRESCENT, COXHEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4QA who died on 16th JANUARY 2010 and letters of administration to whose estate were granted on 24th AUGUST 2012 out of the Brighton Principal Probate Registry of the Family Division to HELEN MARY STEVENS are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned solicitors on or before 29th November 2012 after which date the said administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to have them having regard only to the claims of which she than has had notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she then has not had notice.

DATED 29th September 2012.

BENNETT & CO SOLICITORS, Cornwallis House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1NY

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Dutch circus that is keen to show the human touch

SEE PAGE 53

THE EYES HAVE IT

Former PM John Major is talking music-hall giants

SEE PAGE 56

Kent Weekend

Do you want to marry this man?

Julian Clary is up for grabs

SEE PAGE 47

PLUS: Down on the waterfront, somewhere quiet and cosy - **food and drink p49** Kentish company has been named as the country's top homebuilder - **property p64** Ford and The Sweeney - **driving p67**

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THE INTERVIEW

Julian Clary

A stage-managed love affair

Fresh from winning Big Brother, Britain's favourite camp comic Julian Clary is seeking romance on his new tour, which auditions men in the audience to be his husband... as **Joe Bill** discovers

THE king of the *double entendre*, Julian Clary is back from reality.

His desert-dry wit and clear compassion for others saw the funny-man navigate his way through the emotional peaks and troughs of the Big Brother house to be crowned winner of this year's celebrity show.

And now he is looking for love. Not real love, of course, as his partner might testify, but the Kent-based comedian has built his new show on the hunt for a man he can call his own.

He said: "The premise is a search for love, so I am auditioning men in the audience to be my husband.

"At the end of the show I will marry one of them and there will be a beautiful civil partnership before your very eyes on stage. There will be confetti and bridesmaids, so all very heart-warming.

"Of course, it's a load of old nonsense, but it is good fun and passes the time, you know."

Clary has been a name in British comedy for almost 30 years fronting TV hits like Channel 4 game-show Sticky Moments in 1989 and Terry & Julian and Prickly Heat during the 90s.

But he is best known for his stand-up shows that have stretched the length of his career since his very early days as a gigging comic known as The Joan Collins Fanclub.

His provocative dress sense, sexual references and occasional public speeches – see the British Comedy Awards 1993 appearance – have sometimes drawn criticism, but Clary remains one of the most recognisable faces in UK comedy.

But faux-marrying a man, straight or gay, on stage in front of an audience is certainly something original and thought-provoking.

What if he actually finds someone he really likes?

Tongue in cheek, the 53-year-old said: "Well, I don't know. My world and persona on stage is one thing, but if you are seriously suggesting that will happen, well, I just don't know. I have a partner. So probably it is best to keep it all as fantasy, I think.

"Yes, anything could happen, so I suppose I am playing with fire. My partner hasn't actually seen the show yet, but I am sure he will be amused."

Clary has taken up presenting, theatre and screen-acting roles, is a journalist for the New Statesman and even became an author with both his autobiography A Young Man's Passage and his novels Murder Most Fab, Devil In Disguise and Briefs Encountered.

Although he now enjoys the life of a country gentleman in his 16th-century Kentish farmhouse, he can't resist the lure of live performance.

His last show Lord Of The Mince clocked up a mammoth 140 dates and his new show Position Vacant Apply Within has already been around Kent at Canterbury, Margate and Folkestone venues, with Tunbridge Wells coming up next week.

He said: "I live here, so I tend to tour here first. It is always nice to be able to get back to my own home after a gig and they are good audiences in Kent – they like a laugh.

"Touring is the thing I enjoy most – it is my own creation and I enjoy the creative process as you tour seeing the show evolve. I like making people laugh – it is a very good way to earn a living. It feels very good for my soul to send people home happy."

Reality television has also become fertile ground for Clary, who took the runners-up position in series two of BBC's flagship show Strictly Come Dancing and has now triumphed in the Big Brother house. Maybe his last reality experience?

"The Jungle? I don't know how appealing that is to me because there is a bit of humiliation involved in that. There was a bit of that in BB, but not too much. I think I have now made my contribution to the genre.

"You never forget about the cameras [in the house], but you learn to live with being watched all the time. Where the stress comes in is Big Brother controlling your emotions with the tasks, the rewards, the punishments and the nominations.

"You think you can keep in your mind it is just a TV show and it is all just nonsense, but you become institutionalised after a while. That is the hard part, as well as the claustrophobia. You have no concept of people watching, really – you don't know how it is being edited."

Clary is a firm believer that his successful stint on the Channel Five reality show has been extremely beneficial to him both in terms of lining up new work and as personal experience.

"The reward is you discover things about yourself and, without saying that I have been on a journey, I think what I discovered is I judge people too quickly, and in fact all these people I thought were frightful when I first went in, there is actually something interesting about everybody if you can but winkle it out.

"There have been lots of TV types sniffing round and, yes, I think there will be something [a TV show] quite soon, but I won't tell you about it until it happens because you never know. BB has paid off for me in that way as well."

The comedian will be looking to stay friends with a few of his housemates now they are all on the outside.

"I will be friends with almost all of them because we have been through this shared experience, but Julie Goodyear in particular and Coleen Nolan is lovely. These are good people I feel I need to stay in touch with.

"I have got the tour, then panto in Southampton at Christmas, then some TV work and then another tour in the spring, and then I might write another book. So I can see the next couple of years being quite cheerful."

But Julian Clary would not be Julian Clary without an innuendo-filled line promoting his new show...

"Because I'm still considered to be quite a catch and because the UK is noted for its heterosexuals on the cusp, there's bound to be stiff competition. I will leave no straight unturned."

■ **Position Vacant Apply Within comes to the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, October 6. Tickets, at £20, are available from the box office on 01892 530613 or online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.**

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(T&C's below)

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, well travelled, intelligent, GSOH, seeks genuine, affectionate male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393897**

WHERE have all the eligible bachelors gone? Slim attractive blue eyed blonde, many interests and looking some TLC. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397019**

MAXINE blonde green eyed slim single mum longing for some adult companionship with reliable mature male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397011**

YOUNG at heart widow, 61, N/S, seeks honest, caring man, 55-65 for company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397005**

HI I am Ann a young looking lonely widow, slim, attractive, solvent with OHAC, looking to love again, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395715**

LOUISE single divorcee looking for fun times with likeminded male who likes to have good times in or out. Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395711**

HAPPY go lucky 60yr old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, attractive, looking for honest male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397021**

GENUINE attractive, intelligent fun loving woman, 57, hopes to meet well travelled, educated, socially adept man for love, laughter and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396621**

HI I am Tess, single, sexy, solvent, professional but very lonely, looking for genuine fun with reliable male, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395691**

SINGLE professional 39yr old, travels with work, looking for some out of hours entertainment. Call me to find out more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395689**

CHRISSY 51, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, large build, size 22, seeks local male from loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395209**

ATTRACTIVE caring lady, 77, 5ft 1ins, GSOH, fit, varied interests, seeks sincere gent, N/S for companionship and happiness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395453**

GILLY green eyed red haired nurse looking to start a new life with similar lonely male also looking for genuine love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395043**

ANNE attractive 30's student nurse who loves to keep fit and travel looking for broadminded professional male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395037**

CLAIRE 19yr old bored busty blonde seeking male for fun times in or out. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395033**

FLOSSY likes cinema, meals out, nights in, looking for N/S male, 65-66 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392906**

5FT 7ins female, blue eyes, black hair, trustworthy, GSOH, likes animals, walks, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396149**

56YR old female, likes music, varied interests, seeking well travelled male, 46-60 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392834**

DEBBIE is 28yrs, petite and blonde. Loves gym and fitness. WLTM a sensitive male, looks and age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395659**

FRANCES is a curvy mid 40's lady, loves most things, could she love you? Call to find out. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395653**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

36YR old single mum, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, medium build, GSOH, likes music, walks, animals, cinema, nights in, meals out, seeks sincere male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396373**

LADY 71, 5ft 7ins, seeks dance partner of similar age and height. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396391**

HI I'm Bev, 44yrs old, tall and blonde. Good wicked SOH and varied interests. WLTM kind chap, looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395699**

EMMA is a dizzy hairdresser, 24yrs old looking for a guy with hair to work on! Any age, looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395695**

SARAH 29yrs slim and dark haired WLTM older male. Sarah likes various things and wants to try them with you. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395693**

SARAH is a busty blue eyed blonde seeking a fun guy in local area. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395683**

TINA young 64, smoker, GSOH, loving, caring, likes animals, meals out, seeks male for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394201**

JULIE 5ft 9ins blue eyed blonde looking for male for mutually convenient meets, looks/status unimportant, discretion a must. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394123**

SUSAN first time advertiser very lonely and looking for love with considerate, loyal male with lots of love to give and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393489**

TRACY likes night's in/out, seeking honest male, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391884**

SERENE affable black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, friendly, loves reading nature, theatre, music, sports WLTM genuine caring gent, 34-47 to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

LINDA 42, easygoing, likes cinema, walks, theatre, seeks N/S male with similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395523**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, professional/military gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394525**

LADY 70, likes most things, WLTM gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394309**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

HELEN 34yr old single mum to one, tall, slim and attractive, WLTM intelligent male for good conversations and adult meets, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394475**

ELISA blue eyed brunette 39, curvy and delicious, loves to travel and live life, seeking similar free spirited loving male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394461**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTM someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

PAULA 27, attractive brunette, very outgoing and sensual looking for similar male for mature broadminded relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394571**

KAREN pretty single mum of one, 34, independent, professional, OHAC, looking for someone special to enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394563**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

MARGARET middle aged, attractive, likes storm chasing, cooking, seeks male with GSOH, possible forces. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391648**

RACHAEL blonde haired attractive female 27, looking for love with fun guy who like me is not looking for anything too serious, Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394667**

TRACY mum of two, blonde, slim, attractive, tactile and very sexy for age, WLTM male 30-50yrs for ltr, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394665**

FIT active lady, early 70's, honest, caring, OHAC, likes gardening, music/dance, seeking nice companion to enjoy life together and have good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394915**

LADY likes most things, wishes to meet gent 62-68 for evenings in/out, cinema, walks, talks and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392472**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

FAY very lonely single mum, 26yrs looking for some adult companionship with open minded, non-judgmental male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393121**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

LESLEY professional single mum, a bit of a chatterbox, loves fine dining/wining, WLTM eligible bachelor to take advantage of. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394659**

SALLY 27yr old Air Hostess seeking honest reliable male to join the mile high club, discreet liaisons and friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394655**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

ALISHA blue eyed petite brunette, likes to keep fit, cooking, holidays, seeks male 30-45 for special times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392399**

MICHELE very attractive black single mum, 32yrs, someone you could take home to your mother, seeking a one in a million guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391879**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

YOUNG in outlook 60yr old lady, seeks gent with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393173**

PETITE French lady, likes to be pampered, seeks sugar daddy, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

FEMALE 58, widow, attractive, seeking mature gent, 60 plus with GSOH for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379649**

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390868**

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389757**

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755**

AMANDA 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733**

SOPHIE lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

ROBERT 43, looking for fun with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392938**

HANDSOME builder, 44, great body, charming, N/S, 5ft 10ins, seeks female, 35-65 for discreet passionate meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392926**

DAVID 37, good looking, fit, seeking older lady for discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392242**

JAMES 40's, good looking, single dad, seeking lovely lady for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393665**

49YR old male, 6ft 1ins, easygoing, seeking serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394535**

50 and shades of grey, looking for daytime fun with female, 18-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394401**

SPANISH/SWEDISH speaker sought for 67yr old Chartered Accountant for education and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392306**

MALE likes animals, simple things in life, seeks N/S, tall, slim female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391738**

DAN 18, easygoing, looking for sweet, petite female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395215**

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(T&C's below)

LADY 48-60 wanted for mutual fun and all action adult friendship, by 56yr old fit, exciting and very able real man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396913**

HANDSOME man, tactile, discreet, seeks lady for no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397183**

PAUL 53yrs, 5ft 9ins, 12 stone, quite attractive, seeking lady with GSOH for no strings attached going out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397149**

BLACK lady desired by 38yr old attractive male, OHAC, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397055**

GRAHAM 52, 5ft 6ins, looking for liaisons with lady, 20-50, clean and discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397013**

WELL built guy 62, 5ft 10ins, likes gardening, DIY, scrabble, seeks solvent sub female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396973**

BRIAN caring, loving, understanding, likes nights out, meals in, DVDs, country walks, seeking female for romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396951**

24YR old male, looking for fun with couple. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396877**

PROFESSIONAL male, seeks female, 30-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396775**

MATURE gent seeks attractive young female as companion on 6 week holiday in late August. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395529**

SOLVENT good looking, attentive, discreet male looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393026**

HOPEFUL fun loving, young male, 50, good company, genuine, sincere, easy going, seeks female to rediscover full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396855**

CHRIS genuine, N/S, 60, likes cycling, walking, seeks soul mate to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396825**

FIT 55yr old male, seeks adventurous lady for broadminded adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396805**

SEYMOUR mid 60's, likes cruising, travel, socialising, seeks active, N/S lady to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396675**

JOHN romantic, caring, likes country/coastal walks, music, candle lit suppers, seeks special soul mate to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396617**

MALE 57, WLTM female 45-55, all I can give is guaranteed love, devotion and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396497**

33YR old male, looking for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396345**

MALE 70's, likes dancing, holidays, meals out, seeks lady, 75-85 to share the sunshine years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396335**

SUB male, WLTM mature extremely dominant female for happy relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395327**

PRESENTABLE Surrey male, looking for lady for afternoon fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395521**

MICHAEL romantic, honest, caring, seeks lady to brighten up lonely life, likes walks, meals out, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395445**

DOMINANT male, seeking submissive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396461**

LONG term lover required with no strings by caring, open minded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396423**

BRETT 35, enjoy socialising, cinema, travel, gym, seeking female, 25-35. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393883**

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BI male, young 60's, tall, fit, easy-going, discreet, seeks single male/couple, any age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396967**

ALAN 62, well built, 16st, sub, seeks dom guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396811**

MALE seeks CD/TV looking for warmth and tenderness in their life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396613**

PRETTY blonde 47, medium build, looking for boyish female, 50's for cosy nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388798**

Friendship

JENNIFER 42, black single mum, lonely, seeks white single mum for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382741**

DEBBIE 40, looking for special male/female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378691**

MALE 46, looking for guy, slightly overweight, 46-50 for discreet fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387225**

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RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

IT'S always a tad awkward when you walk into an empty restaurant in the evening.

The candles aren't lit, the romantic music is on mute and the staff don't quite know how to respond to a couple opening the door expecting a quiet yet busy main floor.

That's what faced us as we walked into The Waterfront in Deal, but we decided to make the most of it and were pleasantly surprised when some mood-setting music was put on through the stereo.

Having researched the restaurant online before we set out, we were disappointed to find that both of our favourites had been omitted from the menu despite remaining on its website.

This left my vegetarian companion with just two choices for her main and only one starter option – fortunately, the cooking saved the day.

Both my partner and I had the French-onion soup for starter (it was the only choice for me, too, as none of the others appealed); it was met with nods and noises of approval from both.

The starter came with several pieces of baguette, which accompanied the broth to perfection and got the taste buds tingling in anticipation of the main.

All was well and the waitress on duty was very polite and welcoming, although she maybe tried a little bit too hard to make up for the fact

that we were the only couple in the restaurant.

I'm all for good service, but sometimes a *laissez-faire* approach can be just as good.

Being a Kent man, I opted for the Romney Marsh lamb shank, served with potatoes and seasonal vegetables, whereas my partner selected four-cheese tagliatelle.

The shank was well presented and tasted pretty good, although it was a bit too fatty in parts. The vegetables, although not to my personal taste, were cooked well and presented in a serving dish.

Although not the best meal I've ever had, it's good to see local restaurants serving the best that the county has to offer.

On the other hand, the tagliatelle was a tad too rich for my companion's palate and left her with a bit of a dry mouth – but nothing a refreshing J20 couldn't deal with.

Both meals were reasonably priced and provided value for money – had there been another couple or small party in the restaurant, it would have enhanced the experience twofold.

The pudding proved a bit of an anticlimax, with a chocolate brownie tasting far from fresh and home-made, while the lemon meringue pie that I selected left much to be desired.

Although The Waterfront appeared able to house only a handful of diners, it has the potential to be a cute and cosy place to take someone to dinner on the lovely east Kent coast.

The setting, by Deal pier, is ideal and the chef appears to know what he or she is doing.

So if you're looking for a nice, quiet place to have dinner beside the sea, you should definitely have this on your list of options.

Just be warned, it might be quieter than you think on a Thursday evening.

The bill came to £49.60.

Dean Kilpatrick

The Waterfront Restaurant,
29 Beach Street, Deal CT14 6HY
Telephone 01304 374338

Blessed are the city cheese-makers

CHEESEMAKERS of Canterbury is officially one of the UK's top cheesemongers.

The Dargate team set up its cheese counter at The Goods Shed, Canterbury, two years ago to promote local cheese-makers and has now been highly recommended in the Best New Cheese Retailer class at the British Cheese Awards 2012.

The awards are the country's primary competition for the industry, attracting more than 900 entries from almost 200 British and Irish cheese-makers.

For more on Cheesemakers of Canterbury, email George Ward on ocheese@thegoodshed.co.uk or visit www.thecheeseweb.com.

Food web shows local produce helps towns

LOCAL food in Faversham supports 410 jobs and generates £9 million in trade.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England reported the impact that local food has on community and countryside in the town.

For the first time the CPRE report From Field To Fork builds a picture of the area's food web and the network of relationships between producers, outlets and consumers.

Thea Platt, of CPRE, said: "This is much more than reducing food miles. The web supports 410 local jobs in farming, production and at outlets, contributing to a turnover of £9 million into the economy."

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CHRISTMAS DINING

It seems those balmy days of summer were only a flipped burger on

Eat, drink, be merry and stay over at a festive Elvey Farm

Why here...
Set deep in the Kent countryside, the boutique hotel and restaurant of Elvey Farm makes a statement... you instantly realise that this is somewhere special. Tucked away on a medieval farmstead, Elvey is made up of a cluster of buildings centred on a beautiful 16th-century barn overlooking sunny hills in the summer months, but it really comes into its own during the winter – and especially on the run-up to Christmas.
The log fire crackles away in the bar, the restaurant is decked out in traditional Christmas garb, the frost glistens in the surrounding fields and the smells from the kitchen are too tempting for words.
The team prides itself on attention to detail and this restaurant in the heart of Darling Buds Of May country will have you reminicing of those oh so classic holiday seasons with their hot, wholesome food and stylish decorations.
The majority of ingredients used in Elvey's orginal dishes are sourced locally, home-made from scratch and hearty. Why not stay and make a night of it?

On the menu...
Christmas parties for groups of eight or more. Lunchtime, three courses for £15. Evening, three courses for £28. Rooms for £85 in December. Open for lunch from Wednesday to Sunday and every evening.
To see the full menus, visit www.elveyfarm.co.uk.

How to book...
Elvey Farm, Elvey Lane, Pluckley TN27 0SU (phone 01233 840442, website www.elveyfarm.co.uk)

With a menu fit for a king, The Woolpack will keep you warm

Why here...
The Woolpack Inn at Chilham boasts a warm, welcoming atmosphere, with its oak beams and inglenook fireplaces offering a glimpse into hospitality of yesteryear.
A delicious home-cooked menu features ingredients from local producers.
Fish comes off the boat in the morning and is on the plate by lunch service – you can't get fresher than that!
Simple, honest food is the order of the day at the pub, which offers original dishes.
A sample three-course meal could include local mushroom sautéed in garlic butter, finished with Stilton and cream and presented on a garlic ciabatta followed by home-made steak-and-Spitfire-ale pie, with home-made strawberry shortcake for dessert.
This Shepherd Neame pub stands proud in the countryside, offering a warm stop-off for walkers and shoppers at nearby Canterbury. And good news for those of you looking to put your feet up this year, The Woolpack will be offering food on Christmas Day priced at £59.95 per person. Guests are seated between midday and 1.30pm.

On the menu...
Example: parsnip-and-sage soup with home-made breads, smoked duck with bacon lardons, or black pudding with an orange dressing on a herb salad. Roast turkey with all the trimmings, or fillet of beef Wellington with sauté potatoes and a selection of seasonal vegetables.

How to book...
The Woolpack Inn, The Street, Chilham CT4 8DL (phone 01227 730351, email woolpackinnchilham@btconnect.com

Partying to the beat of the drum this Christmas time

Why here...
The Drum Inn is a 300-year-old building with a fascinating history of military memoirs and smuggler stories that are still told to this day in the pub placed at the heart of Kent. Many of its original features, including two working fireplaces, give the venue an inviting and relaxing atmosphere.
The team at the Ashford pub serves award-winning guest ales that are changed regularly as well as traditional, freshly-cooked pub food seven days a week. Look out for the steak-night deals offering a steak meal and large glass of wine for just £14.95.
Looking forward to the winter holiday season, The Drum Inn will be hosting a Guy Fawkes night with traditional bonfrire and fireworks.
A hog roast will be available with tickets priced at £5. Family tickets are available.
During Christmas time, the menu will offer a range of either traditional Christmas fare, as well as classic roasts and alternative options as well as vegetarian meals.
The official Christmas menu will be available from next week via the pub's website or by phoning the pub directly.

On the menu...
The Drum Inn's day-to-day menu offers traditional food like beer Brie fritters, breaded whitebait, battered cod, 10oz rump steak, home-made steak-and-ale pie, the BBQ chicken melt, seabass or traditional bangers and mash. Prices range from £8.96 to £14 for a main course.

How to book...
The Drum Inn, Stone Street, Stanford North, Ashford TN25 6DN (phone 01303 812125, web www.thedruminn.com)

It's going to be a real cracker with delicious Waggon menu

Why here...
The Waggon at Hale is a well-run family pub with good food, good wines and beers and a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere.
There is always plenty going on at the Waggon, with themed nights, quizzes, charity events and live music. Families are always welcome and in fact in the pub's big family-friendly garden there is even a mini family farm featuring chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits and the star of the show, Crackling the miniature pig.
Proprietor Emma Pearson said: "We do not try to be anything more than what we already are – a warm and friendly country pub serving real food and drink, selected, prepared and served to you by our friendly team."
From November 29 to December 23 the Waggon will be offering its pre-Christmas menu priced at £22.95 per person. That price includes a starter, a main course and a dessert from a excellent range including traditional Christmas pudding, chocolate brownies, tasty French apple tart or, for the ultra- sweet-lovers out there, the raspberry-and-white chocolate cheesecake brûlée.

On the menu...
Choose a starter from the tomato-and-basil soup, the deep-fried Brie, the duck-and-orange pâté or prawn-and-crayfish salad.
For mains, there is traditional roast turkey, roast topside of Scottish beef, mushroom-and-chestnut-stuffed plaice or stuffed red peppers.

How to book...
The Waggon, 179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP (phone 01634 400800, web www.waggonathale.co.uk)

the barbecue away, but the glorious yuletide season will soon be upon us, so get ready for the feast of the year

Yuletide parties catering for your needs at Black Horse

Why here...
The Black Horse is nestled nicely in the picturesque village of Monks Horton.This traditional oak-beamed pub and restaurant offers a taste of Kent at its very best.
With ample parking and a roaring open fire in the cold winter months, this is a perfect venue for any occasion, whether it be a family meal or a Christmas party.
The pub complements its surroundings perfectly, a picture-postcard property that is the epitome of what a country pub should be. It has an extensive beer garden to the rear, which looks out on to countryside, with an enclosed children's play area – an ideal spot for both customers and their children. And the menu is not half bad either!
Savour the freshly-prepared dishes with an Italian twist. Light lunches start from £3.50. The Wednesday lunch club offers two courses for £7.50. Or treat yourself to a Sunday roast, carved specially for you at £8.95.
There is also personalised catering for all events.
For more details about the Christmas party menu and details, phone the pub on 01303 812182.

On the menu...
Examples: tiger prawns sautéed with garlic and chilli butter, or chargrilled chorizo with mixed leaves, mint and cucumber dip, or seared scallops with bacon, mango chutney and salad.
Seafood crumble (haddock, prawns and cod) in a thyme-and-garlic sauce.

How to book...
The Black Horse, Fiddling Lane, Monks Horton, Ashford TN25 6AP (web www.thebestpubintheparish.com)

Kentish charm and good food make the Lion a top choice

Why here...
On the village green opposite the church, the black-beamed, white-walled Red Lion could well be the perfect English-postcard image.
Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, the warm, cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night. And why not? With the tradtional log fires, live entertainment and quality home-cooked food, this free house has something for everyone.
There is a safe children's play area in the garden and a sunny front patio, making the pub a desirable location for families, parties and a romantic dinner.
There is a good selection of real ales, wines and beers as well as a good choice of meals on the à la carte menu. The specials change with the seasons and the team has recently launched its Taste of Kent menu in the refurbished restaurant, serving dishes and ingredients sourced within a couple of miles of the pub.
Food is served daily Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm-9pm. On Sunday it is served from midday to 8pm.
Christmas-party-booking is now available.

On the menu...
Examples: slow-roasted lamb shank on the bone with a bed of mashed potatoes and minted peas, or horseshoe gammon steak with chunky chips and simply topped with double egg... or try the extra-mature 28-day-hung sirloin of beef on a bed of home-made wiljur fries.

How to book...
The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, web www.theredlion.org)

Go the whole hog and eat at the Black Pig on the big day

Why here...
The Black Pig at Staple near Canterbury is a fine 16th-century, timbered building that offers a large garden and plenty of free parking.
It has a modern comfortable restaurant and bar area with a welcoming atmosphere and brilliant menu. The chefs at the pub provide an extensive range of home-cooked meals using locally-sourced food and this has helped to establish an excellent reputation for dining.
The team has become famous for its 'Host your Roast' meals on Sundays at which the chefs cook the food but the customer carves the meat for a minimum of six guests.
There is a pre-Christmas menu this year running from December 1 to Christmas Eve, offering two courses for £22.50 and three courses from £25.50.
There will also be a Christmas Day lunch sitting this year using the same menu, but guests will have the addition of a glass of fizz and canapés on arrival, Champagne sorbet in between starter and main course and no supplement on the port and Stilton option. The price is £65 per head.

On the menu...
Example: Home-made venison pâté with a redberry coulis or smoked salmon blinis with lime crème fraîche follwed by roast turkey, chestnut stuffing, pigs in blankets, bread sauce, roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables finished by Baileys and chocolate cheesecake.

How to book...
Barnsole Road, Staple, near Canterbury CT3 1LE (phone 01304 813000, web www.theblackpig.co.uk)

Warm up your winter with dinner at the Farrier's Anvil

Why here...
At the Farriers Arms in Mersham near Ashford, a warm welcome awaits you. This 17th-century oak-beamed free house is full of character and provides a cheerful welcome, with good food, a wide selection of real ales and plenty going on.
This charming old country inn with its riverside garden, trout stream and great scenery offers entertainment from live music to murder mysteries. Enjoy fine dining in the Anvil restaurant with its à la carte menu prepared from the best local ingredients (vegetarian choices available).
Celebrate Christmas with the Farriers Special Festive Menu from November 26 to December 24, offering three seasonal courses for £24.95 per head and a deposit of £10 per head.
Make it an extra-special meal by ordering table presents and stocking-fillers. Party bookings are available from November 26 to December 9, with a free bottle of wine for every four diners.
The Christmas Day menu offers adults six courses at £64.95 per head and children four courses at £32.95 per head. Booking in advance is essential.

On the menu...
Example: Three-bird terrine of pheasant, pigeon and chicken with beer bread and Christmas spiced chutney, or the hot winter vegetable broth, followed by slow-braised shoulder of lamb with fondant potatoes and seasonal honey-roasted root vegetables.

How to book...
The Farriers Arms, Mersham, Ashford TN25 6NU (phone 01233 720444, email info@thefarriersarms.com)

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Movers and shakers
Free dance sessions

Stour Centre, Ashford
Open Thursday afternoons until November 8
01233 625 362
www.contrafusion.co.uk

FREE dance sessions are available at Ashford's Stour Centre throughout the autumn.

Kent County Council is backing the classes, which will be offering community dancing that everyone can do, from 17th-century styles to 21st-century ceilidh; there will be square dances, American contras, barn dances, waltzing and the polka.

The sessions will be run by local teachers John and Karen Sweeney and be available every Thursday afternoon from 2pm-3.30pm until November 8.

John said: "This type of dancing, apart from being great fun, contributes to a healthy lifestyle and helps people of all ages to get and stay fit."

Country star in da house
Eve Selis

Maidstone house gigs
Tuesday, October 9
email housegigs@gmail.com
contact organisers for location

TO support the UK release of new album Family Tree, American country-singer Eve Selis will be touring the UK, stopping off in Maidstone.

Championed by BBC Radio 2 DJ Bob Harris, Selis has begun to make a name for herself in the UK, having arguably already conquered her native music charts.

As winner of seven San Diego Music Awards in Americana and Adult Alternative, Selis is no stranger to basic live music and will be playing a number of her new tracks at her gigs.

Watch out for Selis's covers of Rubber And Glue, classic country heartbreaker Don't You Feel Lonesome and Leonard Cohen's majestic masterpiece Hallelujah.

Paralympic pianist plays
Lunchtime gig

The Woodville, Gravesend
Thursday, October 4
01474 337774
www.woodville.co.uk

OPENING the new season of The Woodville lunchtime concerts will be Nicholas McCarthy, the one-handed pianist who performed at the closing ceremony of the 2012 Paralympics Games

McCarthy was born in 1989 and only began to play the piano at the late age of 14.

Born without his right hand, he is one of a few left-handed pianists worldwide and has gone on to star in concerts and on TV, playing in front of royalty across the globe.

He studied at the Guildhall School of Music in London under acclaimed concert pianist Lucy Parham.

Most recently, McCarthy was awarded the prestigious international AMI Award for creative excellence in music.

The real deals
A town's folk celebrated

Deal Maritime & Local History Museum
Saturdays through October
01304 381344

AN EXHIBITION celebrating people and organisations that have had a lasting effect on Deal has opened at the town's maritime museum.

A Hero To Deal, which is open every Saturday until the end of October, shows some of the people who have affected the town's development during the last 300 years.

One of those featured is Thomas Powell, who supported boatmen's attempts to rescue seamen drowning in the Great Storm of 1703.

Thomas Oakley is another in the exhibition after his part in breaking a cartel on the price of flour, which was causing hardship to the town's poor.

Entrance to the exhibition is included in the main ticket price of the museum at £3 for adults and £1.50 for children.

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WWW.THEWEDDINGSHOW.CO.UK

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A taste of the cathedral city

Eat in the park

Canterbury Food and Drink Festival
Fri to Sun, September 28-30
01227 378100

THE Canterbury Food and Drink Festival returns to Dane John Gardens for 2012, celebrating the city's finest producers and purveyors of drink and craft.

As well as a huge array of tastes and smells, this year's festival features some great entertainment for all the family, including the ever-popular Little Lounge area, which offers activities to keep even the youngest entertained.

New to the festival this year is the Green Hop Beer Tent, which, alongside more than 20 of the county's breweries, will be making its own versions of ale, fusing hops picked only 12 hours previously.

Cheese-lovers should not miss the Kentish Bluebell Cheese this year.

For more information on times and stalls at the festival, visit www.canterbury.co.uk.

Tumbling into the big top

Human circus

Jackson's Field, Rochester
Tue to Sun, October 9-14
0844 415 5228
www.netherlandscircus.eu

MEDWAY families are in for a huge treat when one of Europe's biggest circuses comes to town.

The Netherlands National Circus will set up its big top at Jackson's Field as part of its gigantic all-human circus on tour.

The team is a Dutch insititution and has been entertaining crowds since 1948 with innovative acts and top-quality human performers.

In 2012 the circus features the Princess of Balance, Desiree, who can fire arrows with her feet, as well as the triple-level aerial daredevils The Flying Aces.

Springboarders the Cretzu Troupe will be joined by the Mambo Jambo Troupe with its human pyramid.

A sensational return to 60s

Farewell, Rick!

The Woodville, Gravesend
Saturday, October 27
01474 337774
www.woodvillehalls.com

THE Sensational Sixties heads to Kent with a quintessentially 60s line-up packed with nostalgia and hit-makers.

The Tremeloes, Herman's Hermits, The Union Gapuk and The Ivy League head to The Woodville with a stream of classic songs ready to be unleashed on the fans.

The 2013 tour marks a special celebration as it will be the last chance to see Tremeloes guitarist Rick Westwood, right, in action as he retires after the tour.

A fact not many will know is that in 1961 Decca Records auditioned two bands to receive a three-year contract; those bands were The Tremeloes and The Beatles. It was The Tremeloes who won the contract.

It's the best of British

Military wives return

Leeds Castle, near Maidstone
Saturday, July 13, 2013
Tickets on sale now
www.heritageevents.co.uk

AFTER the huge success of its 2012 summer gig, the Military Wives Choir has agreed to return to Leeds Castle, above, in 2013.

The choir has had an extraordinary year, with its debut single and album hitting the No 1 spot in the UK charts and a series of performances to royalty, dignitaries and celebrities, including a very special one at The Queen's Diamond Jubilee event.

The group will take part in the Best of British classical concert, as it did this year. This will also feature the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Central Band of the RAF.

The ticket price is reduced to £32 picnic style and £42 seated until Monday, December 31.

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The Coolest Christmas Party In East Kent: Winter Wonderland At Margate Winter Gardens

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Thurs	20th Dec	
Fri	21st Dec	- SOLD OUT
Sat	22nd Dec	- SOLD OUT

- Magical Winter Wonderland setting
- Iced cocktail meet and greet
- Three-course sumptuous meal
- Live entertainment
- DJ into the early hours

£29.50

Whether you are small party of two or a group of two hundred, reserve your place now, on the coolest guest list in 2012.

For bookings and further information contact our central booking office at:
Margate Winter GardensTel: 01843 296111
admin@margatewintergardens.co.uk

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£15.95 per person (for senior citizens)

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£62.95 per person (Child 5yrs-11yrs £25)

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Dine on superb quality food and then dance and party until the early hours
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NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER/DANCE AT THE MANOR - £120.00 pp

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE PAVILION £80.00 pp

Eastwell Manor ASHFORD

Full details of all the Christmas and New Year events are available in our Christmas brochure which can be obtained by telephoning 01233 213020/213000 or visiting our website: www.eastwellmanor.co.uk

CHRISTMAS PARTIES LAS VEGAS CABARET NIGHTS

AT

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CHRISTMAS **PARTIES**

It's the coolest guest list of 2012 – be on it!

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Christmas party nights, Winter Wonderland is back at Margate's Winter Gardens, with Queens Hall transformed for yuletide.

On entry you will be greeted with an iced cocktail to kick-start your evening. A pianist will accompany you as you enjoy your three-course festive carvery at the beautifully-decorated tables. Once you have enjoyed your sumptuous meal, it's time for you to be treated to some live entertainment before dancing the night away into the early hours guided by the resident Winter Gardens DJ.

Whether you're a small party of two or a group of 200, we'd love you to join us for a Christmas to remember for just £29.50 per person (smart dress code will be enforced).

So what are you waiting for? Reserve your place now on the coolest guest list in 2012, from Monday, December 17, through to Saturday, December 22.

For bookings and further information, phone Margate Winter Gardens on 01843 296111 or email admin@margatewintergardens.co.uk.

Something for all tastes at a very special venue

THE Best Western Plus Dover Marina Hotel & Spa is a great place to celebrate Christmas.

Located on the seafront and within walking distance of the town square, the hotel is an ideal venue for that special Christmas party, festive lunch or short break.

Christmas party nights include dinner and music from the DJ. For lovers of Indian food, there are Bombay Christmas party nights on Thursdays.

At lunchtimes the hotel offers three-course Christmas Fayre lunches with festive table decorations, while on Thursday each week in December senior citizens dine for just £15.95 each.

Christmas Day lunch sees a special price for children under 12 and there is a visit from Father Christmas. The hotel also offers Christmas Eve dinner, Christmas Day dinner and Boxing Day lunch and dinner.

Special accommodation rates are available. For enquiries and bookings, phone 01304 203633 or email events@dovermarinahotel.co.uk.

Lord it up this festive period at the manor

EASTWELL Manor is a fabulous winter wonderland setting for a Christmas party, with the historic manor house and The Pavilion beautifully decorated for the festive season with giant Christmas trees and hundreds of lights.

The party nights are held at The Pavilion and have either casino tables or Wii games to entertain you following your three-course dinner. The resident DJ will be playing music to suit all tastes and you will be well looked after from the glass of bubbly on arrival until your departure.

Why not stay the night in one of the delightful mews cottages? If you prefer a quieter celebration, then private dining may be the answer. You can eat in one of the beautiful private dining rooms, where eight to 80 guests can be catered for. The head chef has put together some festive menus.

Phone the reservations team on 01233 213000/213020, email enquiries@eastwellmanor.co.uk or visit www.eastwellmanor.co.uk.

Take a magical step back to the world of Dickens

THIS Christmas, Dickens World at Chatham Maritime is proud to present truly magical entertainment for everyone.

Entry to the Christmas launch is free and the festive celebrations commence on Saturday, November 17.

Join in then for a chance to enter the beautifully-decorated attraction and view the live performance of A Christmas Carol in the Dickens World courtyard, complete with a magnificent indoor snowfall.

Events this Christmas include the family pantomime Dick Whittington, with performances throughout December.

Visit Santa's Winter Wonderland and imagine a special ice-rink for children to play on, the workshop cabins where Santa and Mrs Merry Christmas and the helper elves Jingle, Jangle and Twinkle help all the children with their Christmas lists.

Imagine gingerbread-making and story time with Mrs Merry Christmas in a special place where it's always Christmas.

For more information, visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or phone 01634 890421.

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Major names at book fest

Riot of authors

Folkestone Book Festival
Fri to Sat, November 2-10
01303 858500
www.folkestonebookfest.com

FORMER Prime Minister Sir John Major has been announced as the lead name at this year's Folkestone Book Festival.

The politician and author brings his new book My Old Man: A Personal History of Music Hall to the festival on Friday, November 9, at the Saga Pavillion.

Other writers making the trip to the event include Richard And Judy television presenter Judy Finnegan, broadcast personality Pam Ayres and historian Robert Skidelsky.

Also talking will be photographer Mary McCartney, daughter of Beatles frontman Paul McCartney and his late wife Linda.

See online for dates and locations of talks.

A noble cause

Comedy Ross eyes up Wells

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Thu and Fri, October 1-2
01892 530613

AFTER a two-year break, Geordie comic Ross Noble is back doing what he does best with a new live tour.

Famed for his fluid, freewheeling style of stringing anecdotes together like one long sentence, Noble creates comedy gold from fragments of random nonsense.

The wild-haired funny-man is one of the top comedians on the British circuit, as he has been for the last 10 years, but he continues to shun stadium venues for more intimate settings.

This is your chance to see the acclaimed stand-up close and personal in his new show Mindblender.

Tickets are priced at £25 and available from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Rewinding the garage clock

List of legends

Whitstable Brewery Bar, East Quay, Whitstable
01227 772157
facebook.com/thebrewerybar

A HOST of garage legends is heading to Whitstable in the run-up to Christmas.

The Brewery Bar presents its UK Garage Series, with DJ Pied Piper, known for the song Do You Really Like It?, starting things off on Saturday, October 20. On Saturday, November 24, DJ Luck and MC Neat take to the decks with their hit Little Bit Of Luck.

Shortly before Christmas, on Saturday, December 15, arguably the biggest stars of the series head to the seaside venue when Oxide and Neutrino arrive, famous for being part of the So Solid Crew and a series of huge hits including No Good For Me.

On Saturday, January 26, The Artful Dodger is sure to feature his No 1 hit Re-rewind.

Tickets will be availble on the bar's Facebook group.

See dancing royalty

Anton Du Beke

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Wednesday, January 23, at 7.30pm
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

STRICTLY Come Dancing star Anton du Beke will take his solo show on the road with his dance partner Erin Boag, both pictured above.

The new show Anton & Erin Go to Hollywood will see the king and queen of the ballroom head to The Marlowe in Canterbury in January.

The UK's favourite dance duo pay tribute to the golden years of the film musicals.

Sassy tunes, sensational choreography and sparkling costumes conjure up all the fizz and razzmatazz of glamorous Hollywood, presented by Anton and Erin with their trademark charm, wit and ballroom magic.

The dancing isn't bad, either!

Bathrooms for the less able

With medical advances and a greater awareness of how to live a healthy life, many people are not only living longer but are also living fuller lives.

The advent of technology such as tablet computers has further revolutionised the way we communicate, shop and even view the world.

Things such as high fashion, foreign products and eclectic objets d'art, which were once the preserve of the rich or well connected, are now available to anyone with broadband. As a result, we expect more and compromise less.

In practical terms, however, an ageing population brings its own challenges. Fortunately, modern bathrooms have come a long way, both in terms of design and functionality – especially when it comes to bathrooms for people with disabilities or reduced mobility.

Instead of being limited to a bathroom that resembles a disabled toilet in a hospital or institution, a whole world of colour, design and practicality is now at your fingertips.

With choice can come the anxiety of selecting the right product, but bathroom specialist Ripples is used to working with occupational therapists to ensure it is able to advise and supply bathroom or shower equipment and furniture that is both attractive and fit for purpose.

Dean Chesterton, director of Ripples Canterbury, outlined some of the products designed to help less abled people create their perfect bathroom. He said: "We meet many clients who are looking to create a bathroom that they can use independently without compromising on style. At Ripples our comprehensive ranges will ensure you achieve the best from your home. We have a range of items to help, from easy-access shower enclosures to lower baths, baths with a small seating area inside, wet-room floors with level access and thermostatic showers.

"Other amenities include toilets that are raised by 50mm, which gives better flexibility on the knees, as well as wall-hung basins, which can be fitted lower to suit the requirements of people in wheelchairs, or for those who prefer to sit in front of the basin while washing."

Mr Chesterton also recommends installing solid-chrome grab-bars in the correct place to assist lifting and sitting and that are both sturdy and look good.

"Seats in the shower area, or positioning the shower head lower down, can help people wash their bodies easily without having to get too much water on their head," he said.

Other design adjustments include flooring, such as non-slip tiles or hard vinyl, which can help to reduce the hazard of slipping. The majority of floor tiles used in these kinds of bathrooms are textured, but a clear anti-slip coating can be added to flooring if required.

WET ROOM: Greater accessibility is available

Specially-adapted bathrooms can be quite expensive. However, some customers are able to claim zero VAT on most products, which can mean a saving of 20 per cent per purchase.

Ripples has built up a strong reputation for designing inclusive bathrooms and understands that clients are individual, so the team listens to requirements and always pays attention to detail to deliver a complete personal service designed with only you in mind.

The Canterbury showroom offers a relaxing environment in which to build your bathroom scheme with an expert designer on hand to advise customers.

■ **For information on Ripples, or advice on designing a bathroom, visit www.ripples.ltd.uk or phone 01227 459525**

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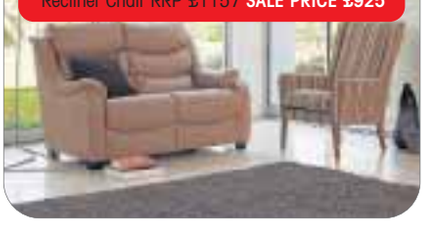

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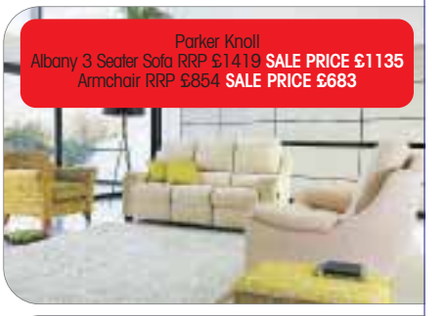

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Make the most of buy-to-let

PROPERTY across Kent will continue to produce the highest total returns over the next 10 years for buy-to-let investors, according to Rental Britain, a report released by Savills in conjunction with Rightmove, *writes Katy Croft*.

This year, with a large proportion of prospective purchasers priced out of the buying market, the number of privately-rented homes in Britain has reached 4.8 million – up from just 2.5m in 2002.

A surge in demand from tenants over the past year has seen rental yields increase by an average of 5.2 per cent. Savills is forecasting rents to rise by a further 20 per cent on average over the next five years and, with house prices increasing and mortgage availability still low, it seems there has never been a better time to invest in the buy-to-let market than now.

When considering a buy-to-let property investment, choosing a desirable location is imperative for a number of reasons, not least because a property is defined by its locale.

Good transport links, such as the M2 and M20 and the high-speed rail service, are essential and properties in commuter belts are in high demand, ensuring higher rental yields.

Lucian Cook, director of residential research at Savills, said: "Rental incomes in Kent remain consistently strong. The report shows Sevenoaks currently commands the highest monthly rental income for a two-bedroom apartment in Kent, averaging just under £1,000 per month, with cities like Canterbury offering strong rental yields, too. House-price growth prospects in Kent are also expected to be stronger than the UK as a whole, and towards the top end of the range expected for the South East. That means prospective total returns are likely to be attractive to cash-rich investors."

STYLISH: Berkley Homes' Ryewood showhome

Investors looking to purchase a buy-to-let property in Sevenoaks have the opportunity to look at Ryewood, a new development launched by award-winning developer Berkeley.

Ryewood offers a range of properties, including one- and two-bedroom apartments and two-, three-, four- and five-bedroom houses with contemporary specifications, all set among landscaped gardens. It is next to a Kent Wildlife Trust reserve and just a five-minute car journey from Sevenoaks and a few minutes' walk from Dunton Green train station, from where London is only 29 minutes away.

All the homes at Ryewood have detailing such as chrome switches and sockets, downlighters and flooring included throughout.

The individually-designed, fully-fitted kitchens come with integrated appliances including a hob, cooker, fridge-freezer and dishwasher. Many of the apartments have a private balcony or terrace and all the houses have a garden.

Sevenoaks has a historic high street and a selection of places to dine out, as well as plenty of chic boutiques and country pubs in the surrounding area.

The countryside lies on the doorstep, while golfers have the choice of two prestigious clubs, Wildernesse and Knole Park.

Tina Dedman, sales and marketing director at Berkeley Homes, said: "With current research indicating an estimated 'yield' on investment properties now running at an average of 6 per cent across the UK, more than double the amount investors can typically earn on a savings account, current market property prices and lower interest rates make now a great time for landlords to invest in a buy-to-let property."

Apartments at Ryewood are priced from £249,950, while houses are from £314,950.

For further information, you can visit www.ryewood.co.uk or phone 01732 740402.

Which is the best bed? Survey has an answer

A BED from Lenleys furniture supplier, based in Canterbury, has been given high praise from a leading voice in retail.

Members of Which?, the UK's largest consumer body, gave its luxury Vi-Spring bed the highest satisfaction score for a second year running, beating all other mattresses.

The survey gave five stars for both comfort and durability and 85 per cent overall satisfaction.

"We have a laugh with our customers when they try them out because they never want to get up again," said Denis Brophy, who has been buying beds for Lenleys in Roper Road, Canterbury, for eight years.

He said the secret came from Vi-Spring's pioneering pocket-sprung mattress and the fact each bed was individually made by master craftsmen to suit customers' exact requirements.

The mattresses are made from pure British fleece wool, mohair, soft cotton and silk, and the beds come with a range of upholstery fabrics, headboards and divans.

"I can honestly say I'm working on my research day and night," said Mr Brophy.

"I feel very comfortable recommending these beds because I sleep soundly in my own."

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The final tasks before onset of

LUCY'S PATCH

by LUCY HEWETT

September has been a mixed bag, but I've been making the most of the sunshine as there are a few projects I would like to finish before the colder weather sets in – not that bad weather should stop me doing jobs in the garden, of course.

One of the projects we want to complete is our koi pond area, which we are giving a make-over. We created it about 12 years ago and the surrounding shrubs had all got to big and woody so we have relocated or pulled them out, revealing some lovely, long-forgotten rocks.

I have to admit that I did have some help from my gardener Shaun (The Garden Guy, based in Conyer). He did a lot of the heavy work, including the unenviable task of tackling the bamboo – I had planted this long before I knew anything about invasive plants, but Shaun has managed to dig up all the roots... we hope!

Once all the shrubs were cleared, we put down black plastic (anything to stop extra weeding – my new gardening policy) and planted with some low-level, semi-shade-loving plants, including ferns, hellebores, heucheras, *Vinca minor*, hostas and then a few larger specimens: a couple of acers, a large grass and a forsythia.

UNVEILING TREASURES: Lucy rediscovered some attractive rocks surrounding her 12-year-old pond

Next we are going to cover the plastic with slate chipping, power-hose and repoint all the paths and put up a new fence.

I only bought the plants that I didn't already have elsewhere in my garden, but to save some money I will be dividing some existing plants to fill remaining gaps. Dividing is a great way of creating new plants from old, but if you are not sure about exactly how to do it here are some instructions...

The way to know if your plants needs dividing includes any or both of the following:

• If they are dead in the middle of the clump or have stopped flowering well, with a circle of young growth only around the edges.

• If the clump has outgrown its spot and started invading neighbouring plants, or if the clump has grown itself out of the ground.

1. Cut down the stems as low as possible so they don't get in your way – dig around the clump, then prise it out of the soil.
2. Divide up the healthy young growth either by inserting two forks centrally and prising apart, or use a spade to slice up the clump. I tend to 'mis-shoot' with a spade, so I prefer forks or my hands if it is a tuber-type plant.
3. If replanting straight away, improve the soil by forking in some garden compost or manure and a handful of fertiliser – or pot the new plants up for planting at a later date.

Jobs to do this month

Birds They have been pretty sedentary during the summer but will now start to turn back to the bird-tables and feeders to stock up for the approaching colder months, so start stocking up feeders again – but before you do, give

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Homes & Gardens

winter

everything a good clean – many birds die each year from parasites and bacteria that can build up in feeders and water-containers.

Lawn care Reseed bare patches during a wet spell and apply autumn lawn-feed – giving it attention now will give the new grass roots a chance to establish before the cold weather sets in. Use a fork to spike lawns to give them aeration. Autumn is a good time to lay a lawn if you have an area you want to turf or seed.

Pots If your summer containers still have some life left in them and are not ready to be replanted with winter flowers yet but could do with a bit of a bolster, plant a few mini mums (baby chrysanthemums) to add colour.

Hopefully you have chosen which ones you want from the massive selection of spring-flowering bulbs, so get planting now for beautiful, much-appreciated displays in the spring.

Also... install a water butt if you have not already done so to collect winter rain.

Give hedges a last trim and tidy-up to keep them neat through winter.

Take advantage of dry weather by painting fences, sheds and other wooden features with a preservative.

Collect leaves as they fall and add to the compost bin – water and leave for a year to make excellent leaf mould.

In the fruit and veg patch

Pick all remaining tomatoes, placing green ones in a paper bag with a few red ones to speed up the ripening process, or make some green tomato chutney.

As you clear and dig over veg beds, consider planting some green manure, *eg* Phacelia. Green manures are useful as they mean you do not need to weed the bed and they protect the soil from erosion over winter, reducing any leaching of mineral and nutrients and also protecting soil structure; they also boost nutrients when they are dug into the soil in spring.

Once you cut down your bean and pea plants, leave the roots to be dug into the soil as they provide extra nitrogen for future crops.

As temperatures fall, greenhouse-shading paint should be removed and any blinds lifted to allow in as much of the remaining light as possible. Cloche any tender herbs or salad.

Remember to make a note of what you planted where so you do not plant the same things in the same place again next year.

Sow... broad beans for early crops next May and June and sweet peas if you have not already done so.

Harvest Continue harvesting squashes and pumpkins and store for winter use.

My veg patch has been disappointing this year – things just didn't seem to get going, or they have been three weeks later than usual, which had some advantages as I was back from holiday in time to enjoy the benefits of some crops.

So I am still reaping the rewards of the ever-faithful runner beans, cucumbers (Burpless Tasty) and courgettes. At least I can always rustle up a meal of some sort from that lot – a veg-patch omelette is always a favourite.

Pumpkins have done amazingly well this year – I've never had such big ones. Roll on Halloween... we're going to have some amazing carvings.

AUTUMN GARDEN: Pumpkins have done well this year. Lucy has planted ferns and heucheras among the other greenery by her remodelled pond

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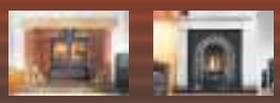

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Combination of factors sees asking prices slump again

HOMEOWNERS putting their property on the market in recent weeks dropped their average asking prices for the third consecutive month: down by 0.6 per cent (-£1,402) on the month and 4.6 per cent (-£11,377) on the quarter.

The latest survey from Rightmove shows the average price of a property coming to market this September is virtually unchanged on a year ago at £234,858 (+0.7 per cent).

Prices this month were also unchanged from five years ago at £235,176 – down just 0.1 per cent.

The figures show the huge impact the recession has had on the market as, in contrast, average asking prices in the previous five years from September 2002 to September 2007 saw a 55 per cent rise.

Rightmove said homeowners in the south, including Kent, cash-rich buyers and buy-to-let investors had been the property winners over the past five years, while those who have suffered included trapped renters, mortgage prisoners, downtrodden down-traders, and sellers in the north.

Miles Shipside, housing market analyst at Rightmove, said: "Summer sellers have had some stiff competition, not only from competing sellers chopping their prices but also from the Olympics extravaganza, which has been more compelling for many than viewing property.

"Property coming to market is £11,000 cheaper than it was three months ago and there will be many hoping this gives a boost to the autumn selling season if buyers leave their starting blocks in a hurry and join the traditional rush to see in the festive season in a new home."

Kent house prices remained stable and held their value, with factors such as the high-speed rail link making them the county attractive to London workers looking to move into larger premises for the same price as a home in the capital.

Kentish company recognised as the UK's top homebuilder

UNITED! Nick Stonley, managing director of United House, clutches the award; he is with colleagues and TV presenter George Clarke, right

SWANLEY company United House has won Homebuilder of the Year, the top accolade in the Sunday Times British Homes Awards.

The company also won Apartment Building of the Year and Housing Project of the Year.

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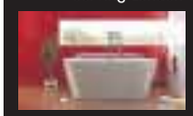
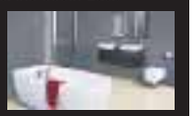

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Determined to Excel

Mercedes new M-Class is now rated top of the class in SUV sector – see inside

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FORD FOCUS ST

PREVIEW

Price: £21,995
Driving appeal: ★★★★★
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliability: ★★★★★
How green?: ★★★
Best rival: Vauxhall Astra VXR

Ford relives Sweeney legend

FORD has secured a double launch for its Focus ST performance flagship.

Having arrived in showrooms last month, it has now taken a second bow with a starring role in the current blockbuster film The Sweeney.

Billed as a tribute to the legendary 1970s TV series following the escapades of hard-nut Flying Squad detectives Jack Regan and George Carter, the film upholds a tradition of using Fords in those shows.

Prime-time TV audiences saw a succession of Ford Granadas, Consuls and Cortinas roaring around London streets, and film-goers will now see the modern-day Regan (Ray Winstone) and George Carter (Ben Drew aka Plan B) update the thrills and spills in a black Focus ST.

That the ST can walk the talk here is not in doubt; the basic Focus chassis is one of the best in the class for handling and has been tweaked further for the ST, while power comes through a 2.0-litre 250PS EcoBoost engine offering 0-62mph acceleration in 6.5 seconds – it won't stretch credibility if the onscreen villains do fail to make a clean getaway.

Apart from black, the ST is available in five other colours, including Tangerine Scream and Spirit Blue, and priced from £21,995 in five-door format – as used in the film – with a stylish ST estate selling from £23,095.

Official combined fuel consumption is a whisker under 40mpg and standard spec includes body kit, alloys and the usual toys, though you must trade up to ST-2 trim (from £23,495) to get part leather upholstery, and flagship ST-3 (£25,495) to get full leather.

There is no mention yet of whether you will ever be able to buy the ST, or indeed any Focus in an eye-catching three-door format like its arch-rival, the Vauxhall Astra (see our Astra VXR review later in this section).

Despite that decision, though, the Focus remains a top-five seller in the UK, and the model – in all its forms across various national markets – is currently the world's best-selling car.

According to data from IHS Automotive, the Ford Focus sold 489,616 units in the first half of 2012. The nearest competitor, Toyota Corolla, sold 462,187.

The Ford Focus first appeared in Europe in 1998, won the 1999 European Car of the Year award and was very much targeted at this region of the world.

Ford's ambition has grown since and the current, third-generation, Focus launched last year was designed as a 'world car' to rival the likes of the Corolla.

The UK range starts at £13,995 for the five-door. However, the estate sells as more of a premium product from £17,300 even though, surprisingly, Ford has not chosen to give it an upmarket label like rivals, which wear names like sportswagon or sports tourer.

QUICK OFF THE MARK: Ford's new Focus ST has had the ideal start to its launch, taking a starring role in the movie The Sweeney, where it can be seen flying around the screen driven by actor Ray Winstone

DON'T LIKE

... the fact that a sporty three-door Focus body is not (yet?) offered. This lack could hurt ST sales more than those for Focus 'cooking' versions.

NOT SURE

... the basic ST is generous enough yet, but Ford is a past master at judging the market, so expect more goodies added later to sustain demand.

REALLY LIKE

... the ST's balance of practicality plus power. It won't matter too much to Regan and Carter, but flexibility does count with most family users.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excluding Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km.

* Not Available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line models, Astra BiTurbo 5dr and Sports Tourer models, Ampera or VXR8. **Vauxhall Deposit Contribution not available on Corsa SXi or Mokka. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee or Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 1 October 2012. †Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall Deposit Contribution. Insurance offer available on Corsa SXi models only, and only in conjunction with Flexible Finance. First year insurance offer available on Corsa SXi only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21 -75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd.

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11	11	CORSA EXCITE 1.2 3dr, Black Sapphire	£9,995
11	11	CORSA EXCITE 1.2 3dr, Pepper Dust	£9,995
11	11	CORSA SXi AUTO 1.4 5dr, Star Silver	£9,995
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12	12	CORSA ACTIVE 1.2 5dr, Sovereign Silver	£10,995
12	12	CORSA VXR Blue 1.6 3dr, Arden Blue	£16,995
12	12	CORSA LTD 1.2 3dr, Black Sapphire	£12,495
12	12	CORSA EXCLUSIVE CDTi 1.3 5dr, Flame Red	£9,995
12	12	CORSA LTD 1.2 3dr, Black Sapphire	£11,995
12	12	CORSA ACTIVE 1.2 5dr, Pepper Dust	£10,495
12	12	CORSA LTD 1.2 3dr, White	£11,995
12	12	CORSA ACTIVE A/C 1.2 5dr, Technical Grey	£10,495

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12	61	ASTRA ELITE CDTi 2.0 5dr, Silver	£13,995
12	61	ASTRA ELITE AUTO CDTi 2.0 5dr, Silver Lake	£14,995
11	61	NEW ASTRA ACTIVE 1.6 5dr, Technical Grey	£14,995
11	61	NEW ASTRA EXCITE 1.4 5dr, Silver Lake	£13,995
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11	61	AGILA SE 1.2 5dr, Steel Silver	£10,495
12	12	AGILA S A/C 1.2 5dr*, Steel Silver	£9,995

* Available 01/11/2012

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09	09	MERIVA CLUB 1.6 5dr, Air Blue	£6,995
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12	12	ASTRAVAN SPORTIVE 1.7D 3dr, Sovereign Silver	£11,695
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10	10	FORD FIESTA FOCUS DCi 1.4 5dr, Black	£8,995
10	59	FORD FIESTA STYLE 1.4 5dr, Silver	£5,650
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05	05	HYUNDAI GETZ ACCENT 1.6 5dr, Blue	£2,995
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04	04	CORSA ACTIVE 1.0 3dr, Red	£2,495
07	07	ASTRA SPORT TWINTOP 1.8 2dr, Panacotta	£5,995
04	54	VECTRA CLUB CDTi ESTATE 2.0 5dr, Silver	£3,295
06	06	TIGRA 1.4 2dr, Star Silver	£4,795
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07	07	VW POLO AUTO SE 1.4 5dr, Blue	£6,495

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Big Merc powerhouse leaves past behind

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

I'LL be honest – I thought the original Mercedes-Benz M-Class a bit of a joke.

Seemingly thrown together at a factory built specially in the US to service the most obvious and irresponsible car market for gas-guzzling 4x4s, it was expensive and cumbersome.

Nevertheless, M-B claims the M-Class has become the world's favourite luxury SUV and the third-generation car, launched earlier this year, has made me eat my words; it's far better-screwed-together, better looking and, while I can't imagine they care much about this in America, the mainstay models for the UK are very fuel-efficient.

Furthermore, I can even forgive the big, bad thirsty V8 AMG version some of its non-PC excesses since it's a truly great drive, physically and aurally. Up to now, the Range Rover Sport, Porsche Cayenne and BMW X5 have had the sporty luxury SUV segment to themselves – we'll discount the plain silly BMW X6 'SUV Coupé'.

But M-B has created a superb chassis for the latest M while retaining much of the previous cars' off-road ability – it's a combination of skills the Porsche and BMW rivals cannot match.

The flagship V8 petrol ML63 AMG is a mean-looking star. With almost 5.5 litres offering 525bhp, plus four-wheel-drive to apply that power, the car is a cultured beast – though it will howl like an old-fashioned muscle car if you kick the throttle.

The rolling M-Class gait of the past is gone, yet M-B engineers have not destroyed the ride quality to deliver a rewarding drive, this being a mantra the German marque has adopted more and more lately, paying particular dividends with the current C-Class in its sales battle against the BMW 3 Series.

Of course, the ML63 AMG isn't cheap; prices start at £82,995, almost double the more environmentally-friendly diesel entry model, the ML 250 Bluetec (£43,235). It groans with kit, though, and all the trappings of M-B's AMG styling house – alloys, body kit and AMG trims and badges – but you can still spec it up further and the test car weighed in at almost £105,000.

If you can afford that, though, you won't mind the fuel bills: you'll be lucky to average 20mpg, though the official combined cycle is 23.9mpg, and the first year's road tax is a whopping £1,030.

The fact is, it is a brilliant but expensive toy, a halo car for the two low-emission diesel variants – the other one being the ML 350 Bluetec (£46,335) – and proof that the M-Class has put the past a long way behind it.

MERCEDES-BENZ ML63 AMG: PRICE £82,995

SMOOTH OPERATOR: Mercedes claims its M-Class is now the world's favourite luxury SUV and the third-generation model, above, certainly catches the eye

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★
Road tax:	£475 (£1,030 year one)
Best rival:	Range Rover

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FOOTBALL

HEAT: Peter Taylor, right, has had to cope with the crazy temperatures on the Arab island nation of Bahrain, where he's a year into his two-year contract

It's a culture shock for Taylor at Middle Eastern minnows

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IF Peter Taylor was looking for a change when he moved to the Middle East, he certainly got it.

It's been just over a year since the former Gillingham, Dartford and Dover boss took the job in Bahrain, which is better known for its Formula One track and political tension than football.

It's been an interesting journey for the one-time England manager that's left his passport looking worse for wear, increased his fear of driving, and seen him battle boredom in the crazy summer heat, while his side also became the subject of a Fifa investigation for a dodgy-looking score-line.

He got off to a great start leading the country, ranked 112th in the world, to their first trophies in memory. Firstly at the GCC Games, an annual competition of sports for Gulf countries, with a 3-1 win over bitter rivals Saudi Arabia, and then just before Christmas they won the Arab Games with a 1-0 win over Jordan.

"When I first came here I never dreamt I would still be here now," said Taylor whose two-year deal ends next summer. "The people are different and the football is very, very different."

The Arab language barrier is one of the more obvious challenges Taylor has had to overcome with the help of an interpreter.

"I've got about four or five players that do understand, but if I'm having a one-to-one I have a translator," said the 59-year-old. "I had to give a rollicking to a player once, so you can imagine there's me going berserk and there's the translator trying to get my point across."

His role is different to that of international managers in countries that have professional leagues where they see their players a few times a year. The majority of his team play in Bahrain, meaning he sees them more often.

"Because it's an amateur league the federation have got more control on the clubs," he said. "It's not like when Roy Hodgson has his players for England and they pick things up very quickly. Here I need them more, if I had them the time Roy had them I would be bored."

And when he does manage to get his players for training it is usually late at night because of the heat, which in summer peaks at 50 degrees celsius. He has also had to work around Ramadan, a month in the Islamic calender during which Muslims fast, meaning they don't eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. This year it occurred in the middle of July.

"You're just watching and you feel like you've come out of a shower," he said. "You feel for the players, some make out they're injured but they're not, they are just hot and tired."

He added: "I've had two Ramadans here and it's difficult for athletes. We went to Azerbaijan for a game and we had players there fasting. There was no way we should have been playing football, it was more dangerous for them than anything."

Another danger point is the driving as he explains: "They're mad. I've got four British staff here and two have had accidents. It's frightening really, it shows you how well we're doing on the roads in England."

His team underwent a routine investigation from Fifa earlier this year after they beat Indonesia 10-0, but it came to nothing. His side needed to make up a nine-goal deficit on rivals Qatar in their World Cup qualifying group. The glut of goals didn't matter as the Qataris scored an 83rd minute equaliser in their 2-2 draw with Iran to make it through at Bahrain's expense.

PLENTY OF LOVE FOR KENT CLUBS

HE may be thousands of miles away, but Peter Taylor still has fond memories of his time in Kent.

He became player-manager of Dartford in 1986 and had four successful years with gates doubling and cups in the trophy cabinet, but it was without promotion.

"I loved Dartford," he said. "Whenever I talk about football I always talk about all the levels I've been at, and Dartford was my first chance of managing a Saturday team. The only thing I was disappointed with was we never got a promotion.

"I'm impressed with their new ground and its terrific they're in the Conference now."

Two years in the football league followed with Southend United before he joined Dover.

"I got a phone call from Dover and I did it part time," he said. "The only thing we wanted was to stay in the Conference, and we did, we finished third from bottom."

Despite signing a two year deal he moved on within a few months when the FA came calling with the England under-21 job.

"Nothing would have stopped me doing that," he said. "You don't turn a job down at the FA."

He was replaced by Howard Wilkinson despite his success and headed to Priestfield for the start of the 1999-2000 season.

It ended in promotion via the play-offs against Wigan Athletic, but he moved on to the Premier League with Leicester City shortly after.

"They, of course, missed out to Man City the year before and it takes good pros to bounce back," he said. "It was very enjoyable year, the way we got there in the end to win at Wembley was brilliant."

MODEL: England's David Clarke is an inspiration

FOOTBALL

Disability football is ready to reap Olympic legacy

KENT'S programme for disability football is hoping to reap the rewards of the legacy created by the Paralympics.

The county has one of the best programmes in the country for disabled footballers of all ages, with more than 40 teams competing in several leagues, as well as special development centres designed to fast-track the top talent to international competition.

It's hoped that more can follow in the footsteps of current cerebral palsy internationals Peter Clemence who plays his club football for the Swanscombe Tigers in the north of the county and Harry Gibbons who plays for Invicta Valiant in Ashford, and visually impaired international David Clarke who shone at the Paralympic Games.

One thing that has helped is the feel-good summer of sport, which included visually impaired five-a-side football and seven-a-side cerebral palsy football at the Games.

Kent FA's development officer for respect and disability Stephanie Gadd said: "We are quite ahead of ourselves in terms of development, others are still trying to establish their county leagues.

"The biggest change has been the raising in profile of disabled sport since the Paralympics."

There are more than 40 teams in the Kent Disability League which meets six times a year to play in five-a-side and seven-a-side tournaments, with the adults playing at Haysbrook School in Tonbridge and the junior games taking place at the Play Football centre in Gillingham.

There is also a development centre which provides a springboard for aspiring players to make it to a higher level, while also helping players find clubs.

It's based at Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium where it holds trials and trains several times a month and is open to able disabled players aged between 12 -16 with a range of impairments including a learning difficulty, a visual or hearing impairment, amputees and those with physical impairments.

"There is a pathway for disabled people in sport, if you are talented enough you can go to another level and play internationally," said Gadd.

It's not just players who are catered for by Kent FA, there are also coaching courses for coaches who want to help develop disability sport in the county.

"It's been a real growth area," said Gadd. "Our courses have all been fully booked. Coaches' awareness is changing. You cannot have all these players and then no-one capable of coaching them."

For more information about attending coaching courses, or the development centres contact Stephanie Gadd on 01622 792140, email Stephanie.gadd@kentfa.com, or visit Kent FA's website www.kentfa.com

FOOTBALL

Bringing Birchall to Darts is a no brainer for Burman

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

DARTFORD boss Tony Burman has told Gillingham loanee Adam Birchall to enjoy himself during his month's stay.

The 27-year-old striker hasn't been able to force his way into Martin Allen's starting line-up at Priestfield this season after recovering from a year out with a serious knee injury.

And the arrival of USA international Robbie Findley on loan at Gillingham from Nottingham Forest has pushed him further down the pecking order meaning a spell away was his best chance to get some competitive match experience.

The Darts haven't exactly been short of goals this season with summer signing Harry Crawford netting five so far, while there are just five sides to have scored more in the Blue Square Premier. But it was an offer that Burman couldn't turn down.

"I am really pleased with my squad. I'm not disappointed with any of them," said Burman. "When someone like Adam Birchall comes along you don't have to give it too much consideration.

"My message is for him to come here and enjoy himself, to get as many 90 minutes as he can. If that helps him to get back in the Gillingham first team we will be delighted.

"He's a fit lad, but he's needs a bit of match practice. They needed to get him out on loan to get some games.

"He's a top, top striker, he's got an abundance of talent. It's a shame he's been very unfortunate with the injury. We know what he is capable of."

RECOVERY: Adam Birchall hasn't been able to break into the Gills side after coming back from injury

Birchall and Crawford have played together before when the latter went on loan to Dover Athletic from Southend United while Birchall was at the Crabble at the start of the 2010/11 season.

Crawford scored within two minutes of coming on as a 68th minute sub on his debut away at Lewes partnering Birchall up front.

That was enough to give him a starting slot in the next game at home to Thurrock which Dover won thanks to a Birchall penalty.

Birchall has appeared just three times for the Gills, coming off the bench in the Capital One Cup win over Bristol City, while also appearing as a sub against Chesterfield in the league and Crawley in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

HOCKEY

Returning players to provide a timely boost for Sevenoaks

SEVENOAKS ladies manager Christine Crosley doesn't believe she will see the best of her side until the end of next month despite their impressive start.

Her side are currently top of the Conference East league with two wins from two - a feat achieved without three key players.

Nikki Lloyd is on international duty for Scotland this week in the FIH Champions Challenge in Ireland, while Lily Elliott and Cathy Gilliat-Smith are involved in Sevenoaks School's hockey programme.

It means Crosley has had to make a few changes in the wins over Bromley and Beckenham and St Albans in the last two weeks.

"We have had to ask some of the youth players to step up, and they have done incredibly well," she said. "We will have a much better idea of where we are when we get to the October break. We will have three players back by then, we will be bit more settled and the youth players will be more experienced."

It is a similarly disruptive start to last season when it took a while for new players to settle in which ultimately cost them the title as they finished runners-up. But Crosley doesn't anticipate there being the same outcome.

YOUTH: Younger players given a go

"We lost four players in the summer who we knew were going to be difficult to replace. We have brought two in but it's left us two down," she said.

"Last season we had a bad start, and if it wasn't for that we would have won the league. We had a few new players, and it took longer than we anticipated for them to settle. It's not as hard a transition this time."

RUGBY

Fresh injection of talent fuels TJs' promotion push

DESPITE their flying start Tonbridge Juddians are still trying to find the right balance to their squad says club captain James Simpson.

There were a number of new faces at the club this summer as they set about building a squad to challenge for promotion after losing the play-off final last season to Chinnor.

And the new charges seem to be having an impact with three wins in the first four games leaving the side fifth in the National League 3 London & South East.

Last Saturday's defeat to Dorking was their first of the season, but Simpson feels the club is still in transition.

"We have gained a few players, some from local clubs, and some returning to rugby," he said. "At the moment what we are trying to do is find the right balance.

"There is a lot of talent that's come in and we have got to find the right selection to make it work as well as it can do. We have had some great results, but we are a little disappointed with the result against Dorking. They are always a very tidy side and we had a bad game, and they had a good game, that's no disservice to them though.

RISE: TJs heading in right direction

"Everything is very positive at the moment, it's early in the season and we are in a good position.

"It's a particularly tough division to be in, and it's one that's hard to climb out of."

FOOTBALL

HARDY: Four of the six fans going on the walk

Angels fans trekking to Truro for charity and clubhouse project

EVERY club has its hardcore of away fans, but there aren't many that get to games by walking 300 miles.

But six Tonbridge Angels fans have pledged to make the trek to Truro - their furthest away game in the Blue Square South - in a bid to kick-start a fundraising campaign for a new clubhouse, as well as supporting the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

They will also be collecting cash for their financially-stricken Cornish opponents who are on the brink of going bust.

Dean Lewis, Darren Apps, Ashley Baker, Philip Hurst, Robert Whiting and Colin Hill will leave Longmeadow on November 21, and will walk an average of 30 miles a day over ten days to reach Truro in time for kick off on December 1.

They will be supported by friends travelling by car, but will sleep in tents at night.

As yet there is no budget or planning permission for the new clubhouse but Apps, who is the Angels commercial manager, feels the time is right to start fundraising.

"The building was put in in 1980, and it had a 15-year life-span. Now, 32 years on, it's still there," he said. "It's not financially viable to keep patching it up, it's beyond reasonable repair. We do hire it out but we only have a licence for 120 and we would like to get 250 in there.

"We are well aware the future of Truro City Football Club hangs in the balance and have been monitoring events down in Cornwall very closely over the past couple of weeks.

"News has been very mixed but in the last week the coaching staff, most of the players, and most importantly the fans, have started to pull together in a concerted effort to rescue the club; to allow it to continue to play the remainder of the season in the Blue Square South.

"This does involve finding a buyer for the club, which is not easy, but let's be positive. They are doing all the right things to give that the best chance of happening.

"Even if Truro do end up being wound up, money raised will not be wasted as the two chosen causes, MS and a new clubhouse, are both very worthy and the sticky plaster and string holding the clubhouse together will not last for much longer."

Apps is no stranger to long distance walks, in 2006 he made the mammoth trek from John O'Groats to Land's End; more than 940 miles.

"I took nine months to get ready for that," he said. "This time I have got nine weeks."

Anyone wishing to donate towards the clubhouse can do so via sponsor forms at the club and donation buckets at home games, while there will also be a JustGiving web page set up for people to donate to the MS Society.

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Vauxhall tames The Beast – a bit

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LIKE Dr Frankenstein, Vauxhall unleashed a monster with its first attempt to create a VXR performance flagship for the Astra.

With a turbocharged 240PS (236bhp) engine under the bonnet, applying all that power via the front wheels was always going to be a struggle. Sure enough, the VXR's steering wheel bucked in your hands even with judicious throttle use. The ride was rock hard, too.

I couldn't help but draw the Frankenstein parallel at the time and call it 'The Beast', and I feared the Vauxhall freak-lab had incubated another when I heard the next-generation Astra VXR would have even more horsepower – housing an awesome 280PS (275bhp) to make it the most powerful car in its class.

You can see the potential PR pitfall, had Vauxhall 'bottled it' and settled for less power, but it seemed a risky course to boost the bhp further, especially as the original VXR seemed to spark a rethink at Vauxhall about the VXR sub-brand.

This was that VXRs must have performance power and handling but not so that driver and passengers suffer all the time.

So the current Insignia and Corsa VXRs are quite useable everyday cars with the capability to do much more when opportunity arises – in short, the Rottweiler trots at heel until the driver unleashes it.

Following the same philosophy, at least to some extent, the new Astra VXR is tipped to become Vauxhall's best-selling VXR variant.

True, it does have an extra dollop of power compared with its (2005-10) predecessor, but Vauxhall has fitted a limited slip differential this time to enable the Astra to apply as much power as possible without hopping from one front wheel to the other, causing the dreaded 'torque steer' for which the old car was infamous.

It's not a complete cure, but the torque steer is milder and very much at extremes of power output in a straight line. Cornering is an enthusiast's delight, though, with the VXR wanting to oversteer or step out – predictably, mind you – like a rear-wheel-drive car rather than run wide as a front-wheel-drive set-up should.

I'm sure it's great fun on a track as you can also fiddle with the tautness of the suspension by selecting Sport mode or the extreme VXR setting.

But this new Astra is as much about looks as performance, definitely making the most of the stunning three-door Astra GTC design from Vauxhall/Opel's British design guru Mark Adams and his team.

Sitting on huge 19- or 20-inch alloys, wearing a smart yet discreet body kit and kicked-up rear spoiler, the VXR looks the part and the cabin is sharp, too, with bespoke VXR sports seats and quality interior.

And it's surprisingly practical, for the three-door or GTC Astra body also offers decent head, legroom and boot space for this class; set the suspension on Normal mode and this road-going rocket can actually function as a family runabout.

Apart from still being a bit of a handful for the unwary in wet conditions, I would also mark the car down for its fiddly electronic parking brake. The auto stop/start seems an oddity, too, if welcome in a car that is clearly not intended to be eco-friendly

Vauxhall sees its rivals as the VW Scirocco R and the Renault Megane Renaultsport, but the new VXR beast is the bargain thanks to looks and generous standard kit.

Of course, it has another role to play, though – as a halo car to drive sales of the no-less-impressive-looking Astra GTC line-up.

VAUXHALL ASTRA VXR: PRICE £26,995

THE BEAST: Tamed enough to allow a more comfortable drive, the new Astra VXR is still something of a monster when it comes to power

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£250 (£460 yr1)
Best rival:	VW Scirocco R

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Real-world eco star

BMW'S 320d Efficient Dynamics Auto is What Car?'s Green Car of the Year 2012.

What Car? editor-in-chief Chas Hallett said it was "a remarkable car that delivers 56mpg in the real world, while company car users will be taxed on its low emissions of just 110g/km of CO_2. BMW has created a car that delivers great environmental credentials without compromise."

Sharper line from Toyota

TOYOTA is using the Paris Motor Show as a showcase for a much-needed change of style, highlighted by a sharp new front-end treatment.

The standard-bearers are rakish new versions of the Auris and Auris Touring Sports (estate) to be built in the UK and contest the family hatchback sector and of the Verso seven-seat midi-MPV, pictured.

Three doors go into the i30

HYUNDAI has surprised the family-hatchback market with a new three-door version of its second-generation i30, joining the five-door and estate models.

The ambitious Korean marque did not use this format during the life of the previous car but clearly feels it needs a sportier option, though it is not expected to take more than 10 per cent of i30 sales.

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MOTORING

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Big Merc powerhouse leaves past behind

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

I'LL be honest – I thought the original Mercedes-Benz M-Class a bit of a joke.

Seemingly thrown together at a factory built specially in the US to service the most obvious and irresponsible car market for gas-guzzling 4x4s, it was expensive and cumbersome.

Nevertheless, M-B claims the M-Class has become the world's favourite luxury SUV and the third-generation car, launched earlier this year, has made me eat my words; it's far better-screwed-together, better looking and, while I can't imagine they care much about this in America, the mainstay models for the UK are very fuel-efficient.

Furthermore, I can even forgive the big, bad thirsty V8 AMG version some of its non-PC excesses since it's a truly great drive, physically and aurally. Up to now, the Range Rover Sport, Porsche Cayenne and BMW X5 have had the sporty luxury SUV segment to themselves – we'll discount the plain silly BMW X6 'SUV Coupé'.

But M-B has created a superb chassis for the latest M while retaining much of the previous cars' off-road ability – it's a combination of skills the Porsche and BMW rivals cannot match.

The flagship V8 petrol ML63 AMG is a mean-looking star. With almost 5.5 litres offering 525bhp, plus four-wheel-drive to apply that power, the car is a cultured beast – though it will howl like an old-fashioned muscle car if you kick the throttle.

The rolling M-Class gait of the past is gone, yet M-B engineers have not destroyed the ride quality to deliver a rewarding drive, this being a mantra the German marque has adopted more and more lately, paying particular dividends with the current C-Class in its sales battle against the BMW 3 Series.

Of course, the ML63 AMG isn't cheap; prices start at £82,995, almost double the more environmentally-friendly diesel entry model, the ML 250 Bluetec (£43,235). It groans with kit, though, and all the trappings of M-B's AMG styling house – alloys, body kit and AMG trims and badges – but you can still spec it up further and the test car weighed in at almost £105,000.

If you can afford that, though, you won't mind the fuel bills: you'll be lucky to average 20mpg, though the official combined cycle is 23.9mpg, and the first year's road tax is a whopping £1,030.

The fact is, it is a brilliant but expensive toy, a halo car for the two low-emission diesel variants – the other one being the ML 350 Bluetec (£46,335) – and proof that the M-Class has put the past a long way behind it.

MERCEDES-BENZ ML63 AMG: PRICE £82,995

SMOOTH OPERATOR: Mercedes claims its M-Class is now the world's favourite luxury SUV and the third-generation model, above, certainly catches the eye

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★
Road tax:	£475 (£1,030 year one)
Best rival:	Range Rover

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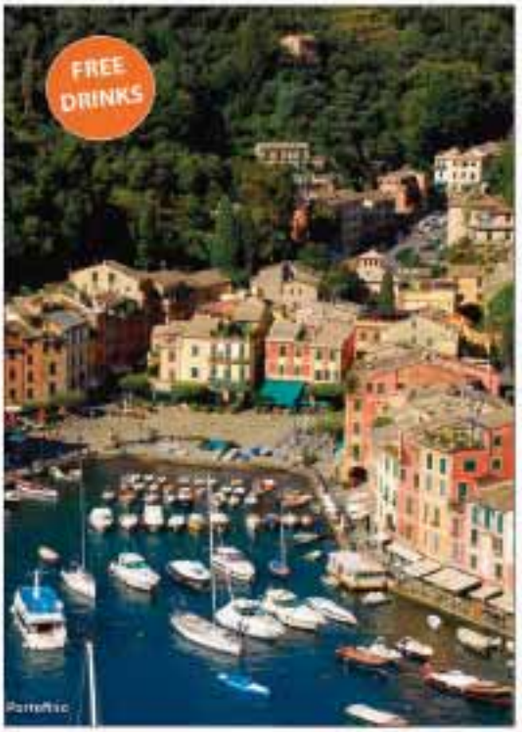

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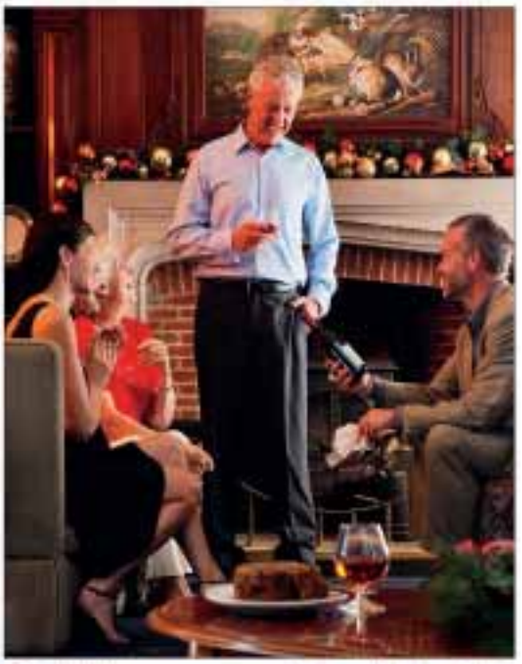

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- Full entertainment & activities programme
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- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

FOOTBALL

HEAT: Peter Taylor, right, has had to cope with the crazy temperatures on the Arab island nation of Bahrain, where he's a year into his two-year contract

It's a culture shock for Taylor at Middle Eastern minnows

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IF Peter Taylor was looking for a change when he moved to the Middle East, he certainly got it.

It's been just over a year since the former Gillingham, Dartford and Dover boss took the job in Bahrain, which is better known for its Formula One track and political tension than football.

It's been an interesting journey for the one-time England manager that's left his passport looking worse for wear, increased his fear of driving, and seen him battle boredom in the crazy summer heat, while his side also became the subject of a Fifa investigation for a dodgy-looking score-line.

He got off to a great start leading the country, ranked 112th in the world, to their first trophies in memory. Firstly at the GCC Games, an annual competition of sports for Gulf countries, with a 3-1 win over bitter rivals Saudi Arabia, and then just before Christmas they won the Arab Games with a 1-0 win over Jordan.

"When I first came here I never dreamt I would still be here now," said Taylor whose two-year deal ends next summer. "The people are different and the football is very, very different."

The Arab language barrier is one of the more obvious challenges Taylor has had to overcome with the help of an interpreter.

"I've got about four or five players that do understand, but if I'm having a one-to-one I have a translator," said the 59-year-old. "I had to give a rollicking to a player once, so you can imagine there's me going berserk and there's the translator trying to get my point across."

His role is different to that of international managers in countries that have professional leagues where they see their players a few times a year. The majority of his team play in Bahrain, meaning he sees them more often.

"Because it's an amateur league the federation have got more control on the clubs," he said. "It's not like when Roy Hodgson has his players for England and they pick things up very quickly. Here I need them more, if I had them the time Roy had them I would be bored."

And when he does manage to get his players for training it is usually late at night because of the heat, which in summer peaks at 50 degrees celsius. He has also had to work around Ramadan, a month in the Islamic calender during which Muslims fast, meaning they don't eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. This year it occurred in the middle of July.

"You're just watching and you feel like you've come out of a shower," he said. "You feel for the players, some make out they're injured but they're not, they are just hot and tired."

He added: "I've had two Ramadans here and it's difficult for athletes. We went to Azerbaijan for a game and we had players there fasting. There was no way we should have been playing football, it was more dangerous for them than anything."

Another danger point is the driving as he explains: "They're mad. I've got four British staff here and two have had accidents. It's frightening really, it shows you how well we're doing on the roads in England."

His team underwent a routine investigation from Fifa earlier this year after they beat Indonesia 10-0, but it came to nothing. His side needed to make up a nine-goal deficit on rivals Qatar in their World Cup qualifying group. The glut of goals didn't matter as the Qataris scored an 83rd minute equaliser in their 2-2 draw with Iran to make it through at Bahrain's expense.

PLENTY OF LOVE FOR KENT CLUBS

HE may be thousands of miles away, but Peter Taylor still has fond memories of his time in Kent.

He became player-manager of Dartford in 1986 and had four successful years with gates doubling and cups in the trophy cabinet, but it was without promotion.

"I loved Dartford," he said. "Whenever I talk about football I always talk about all the levels I've been at, and Dartford was my first chance of managing a Saturday team. The only thing I was disappointed with was we never got a promotion.

"I'm impressed with their new ground and its terrific they're in the Conference now."

Two years in the football league followed with Southend United before he joined Dover.

"I got a phone call from Dover and I did it part time," he said. "The only thing we wanted was to stay in the Conference, and we did, we finished third from bottom."

Despite signing a two year deal he moved on within a few months when the FA came calling with the England under-21 job.

"Nothing would have stopped me doing that," he said. "You don't turn a job down at the FA."

He was replaced by Howard Wilkinson despite his success and headed to Priestfield for the start of the 1999-2000 season.

It ended in promotion via the play-offs against Wigan Athletic, but he moved on to the Premier League with Leicester City shortly after.

"They, of course, missed out to Man City the year before and it takes good pros to bounce back," he said. "It was very enjoyable year, the way we got there in the end to win at Wembley was brilliant."

MODEL: England's David Clarke is an inspiration

FOOTBALL

Disability football is ready to reap Olympic legacy

KENT'S programme for disability football is hoping to reap the rewards of the legacy created by the Paralympics.

The county has one of the best programmes in the country for disabled footballers of all ages, with more than 40 teams competing in several leagues, as well as special development centres designed to fast-track the top talent to international competition.

It's hoped that more can follow in the footsteps of current cerebral palsy internationals Peter Clemence who plays his club football for the Swanscombe Tigers in the north of the county and Harry Gibbons who plays for Invicta Valiant in Ashford, and visually impaired international David Clarke who shone at the Paralympic Games.

One thing that has helped is the feel-good summer of sport, which included visually impaired five-a-side football and seven-a-side cerebral palsy football at the Games.

Kent FA's development officer for respect and disability Stephanie Gadd said: "We are quite ahead of ourselves in terms of development, others are still trying to establish their county leagues.

"The biggest change has been the raising in profile of disabled sport since the Paralympics."

There are more than 40 teams in the Kent Disability League which meets six times a year to play in five-a-side and seven-a-side tournaments, with the adults playing at Haysbrook School in Tonbridge and the junior games taking place at the Play Football centre in Gillingham.

There is also a development centre which provides a springboard for aspiring players to make it to a higher level, while also helping players find clubs.

It's based at Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium where it holds trials and trains several times a month and is open to able disabled players aged between 12 -16 with a range of impairments including a learning difficulty, a visual or hearing impairment, amputees and those with physical impairments.

"There is a pathway for disabled people in sport, if you are talented enough you can go to another level and play internationally," said Gadd.

It's not just players who are catered for by Kent FA, there are also coaching courses for coaches who want to help develop disability sport in the county.

"It's been a real growth area," said Gadd. "Our courses have all been fully booked. Coaches' awareness is changing. You cannot have all these players and then no-one capable of coaching them."

For more information about attending coaching courses, or the development centres contact Stephanie Gadd on 01622 792140, email Stephanie.gadd@kentfa.com, or visit Kent FA's website www.kentfa.com

FOOTBALL

Loyal Cugley yearns to be given cash and told to win

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

FOLKESTONE Invicta boss Neil Cugley admits he misses the pressure of expectation that's been taken away by the club's financial plight.

The club is halfway through paying off creditors after going into administration in 2010 and since then Cugley has been forced to put his side together on a shoe-string budget.

And all the time his spending power is restricted there is a lack of pressure to achieve.

"It would be nice to be put under the pressure of someone saying there's the money go and get promotion. That's what managers want," he said

"Here it's a case of let's see what's around the corner. Three years ago we went up and it was incredible; we only had 12 players. But in the Ryman Premier we just couldn't cope. We didn't have a big enough squad,"

The financial woes haven't affected their start to the Ryman One South campaign. They are third in the league just three points behind leaders Crawley Down Gatwick, having played a game less. They also have the division's top goal scorer in Stuart King who has six.

Two cup defeats in the last fortnight have left the club's coffers lighter than they might have been because of the prize money on offer.

"We had a great August, but September's been so disappointing," Cugley admits. "It's been hard because of the cup defeats but we are third in the league. It's not the end of the world but it seems like it.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

BUZZ: Winning still the best feeling for Folkestone Invicta boss Neil Cugley who has had to battle serious financial problems at the club in the past few years while aiming for promotion on a tight budget

"I think our league has got better this year. It's harder than it was as some teams have really tried to play football the right way."

Despite the financial hardship, Cugley who is in his 16th year at the club, hasn't lost any love for the game.

"I love the buzz of winning, it is beyond anything," he said. "I don't care what age you are, in fact I think it gets worse as you get older.

"I do the best I can on what money we have got. All you want to do is manage, but you get engulfed in everything else."

He admitted he thought the club would fold in the summer after the exit of chairman Lynn Woods, along with board member Jim Pellett and others in the club hierarchy, until new chairman Mark Jenner stepped in.

"I thought we would go," he said. "To be fair to Mark Jenner he came in and it wasn't the best of jobs for him.

"He's kept it going and we could start to see something happening."

FOOTBALL

Plenty more to come from unbeaten Margate, vows boss

MARGATE might be sitting top of the Ryman Premier but boss Chris Kinnear is adamant there is plenty more to come from his side.

Gate are one of just two sides unbeaten in the first eight games, and their superior goal-difference keeps them above Hampton & Richmond and Bury Town in second and third.

The last time his side lost was back in July. That was against Kent League Premier Division side Corinthian, ironically a team which features Kinnear's son - who also shares the first name Chris.

"We haven't always played well." Kinnear Snr said. "We are playing badly and winning games. We have got a lot more to come. We are getting better I think.

"The players are all learning the way we want them to play and we are improving as a team. It doesn't matter where we are now, it matters where we are at the end of the season."

Although they are without last season's goal-scoring hero Kwesi Appiah, now on loan at League Two Aldershot from Crystal Palace, Kinnear feels his side are capable of finding the net.

Picture: DAVE STEWART

KINNEAR: Players adjusting well

"We have got a decent little squad, and we know that if someone gets injured we can bring someone else into the side," he said. "We have got a lot of flair players that can go and win games even if we're not playing well."

While confidence is at Hartsdown Park, Kinnear doesn't think complacency will be a problem if the run goes on.

"We have got to keep their heads focused," he said. "It's something you do without thinking, you keep them believing."

FOOTBALL

Ex-Stoke striker reunited with home side Herne Bay

SIMON Halsey is under no illusions that new signing Jordan 'Tunji' Agbaje may not be at the club too long as he seeks a move back to professional football.

This week the 19-year-old rejoined the club he left more than two years ago for a scholarship at Premier League Stoke City.

The striker's form in Tony Pulis' reserve side led to England Under-19 honours, but he turned down a new contract this summer to seek first team football elsewhere.

While he looks to find a suitable club he has returned to his home in Herne Bay, and has teamed up with Halsey's side to get match fit.

"He wants to get back playing in the Championship, League One or League Two," said Halsey. "We are more than happy to take him on.

"He's a centre forward and he's quick and strong. He was playing in Stoke's reserves with Peter Crouch and Jonathan Walters. Once he's got his match sharpness he will play for us."

While he hasn't played for the first team yet, he scored on his debut for the reserves in the 3-1 loss to Margate last Saturday, while also playing against Deal Town on Wednesday night.

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

CHOICE: Halsey has 'Tunji' on books

The club has also signed midfielder Dan Whisker from Whitstable Town, and Rob Storrie who has moved to Canterbury because of his job in the Army. He was playing for Scottish First Division side Greenock Morton.

HOCKEY

Picture: ADY KERRY

EXPERIENCE: Mel Clewlow praises youngsters

Clewlow backs teen sensation to capitalise as stars take a break

CANTERBURY stalwart Mel Clewlow has challenged the club's youngsters to make a name for themselves.

The 36-year-old, who has relinquished the captaincy this term to Susannah Townsend, feels the club's pool of youngsters can step up and make their mark.

There are several players missing from first team duties, with goalkeeper Abi Walker and defender Natalie Seymour taking a break from the game after being involved in the Olympic set-up, while Dilly Newton is also taking a break.

But that has paved the way for some younger members of the team to step into the first team, including 15-year-old Harriet Pickard who Clewlow has been impressed with.

"We have lost quite a lot of experience and international talent," said Clewlow. "A lot of the players involved in the Olympics programme are taking a break because it all starts again in April next year. If they don't take a break now they won't be able to until after 2016.

"It's a frustration, but a nice frustration because you appreciate the amount of time and effort being put in. I think we have always been a club that's tried to encourage youngsters as long as they are ready to do it. It does bode well for the future."

Pickard made her debut in the opening day 2-1 win away at Bowdown Hightown in the Premier League, but Clewlow is unsure if she would have been given a chance had the club not been missing its international stars.

"Maybe she wouldn't have had a chance, or she might have just sneaked in. She certainly doesn't look out of place," she said.

"She's been one of the best junior players over a period of time. Her understanding and reading of the game is very good for someone so young. This is an opportunity to stake a claim in one sense."

Despite handing the captain's armband over to Townsend, Clewlow is still hungry for success at the club.

"I have done it for 12 years, it's time for someone else to take it on," she said. "I still get asked my opinion and get sent the emails, but I'm trying to take a step back.

"I still want to win things with the club. We have been in Europe four times, and there's a part of me that wants to get back into Europe one last time before I stop playing."

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